

Prophets 18

"The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof." Babylon is far inland. God could certainly cause a tidal wave to come up there and carry the waters of the ocean over Babylon. He certainly could. Perhaps He will some day, but He has not done it as yet. We have no reason from other parts of Scripture to think that God ever will do that. This statement here, it seems entirely reasonable to consider a figurative statement. The sea is very often used in Scripture for the miscellaneous nations of the earth. The sea, the great mass of Gentile nations. The heathen, like the restless waves of the sea. The sea is come upon Babylon, the very verse before said, "How is Seshach, which means Babylon, taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised!" The sea is come up upon Babylon. Many nations swarmed over Babylon and she was taken by the armies of the other countries and disappeared in the course of the conflict. That is a natural interpretation of this as a figurative statement, but then we go on to the next step, Her cities are a desolation of dry land and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby. That particular statement has been literally fulfilled. The cities of Babylon are today a dry land and a wilderness, a place where no one passes by except poor European who wants to find out something of the history of ancient lands and goes way out there across the desert to these mounds of ancient cities in order to dig into them and to learn something of ancient archaeology. The Arab doesn't go near them. There's no reason to. There's no water near them. It's dry and desert. It is indeed a dry land and a wilderness. In the wisdom of God the Euphrates and Tigris rivers changed their courses. They flow from ten to twenty miles away from their former courses, and the great cities of Babylon are now replaced by other cities some miles from the former beds of the rivers. The change has occurred. It occurred exactly literally as here predicted. This previous verse has not been literally fulfilled up to the present, may never be literally fulfilled. It will take quite a change in the configuration of the earth's surface if it is to be literally fulfilled, but it can be well understood