

## **PURPOSE AND METHOD OF THE BOOK**

Since numerous books have been written about Daniel's prophecies it may well be asked why another should appear. Some of these books are excellent in one way and some in another, but there is a gap which needs to be filled, and which, if filled, can be helpful to all prophetic study.

Many discussions approach the book of Daniel with a rather complete theory of God's plan for the future, and endeavor to fit each of its prophecies into a predetermined viewpoint. The differing eschatological systems of the writers affect their interpretation at many points. The present writer has profited from insights found in these various books. Yet his present purpose is quite different.

That purpose is to concentrate on the exact phrases of Daniel's prophecies, trying to see how much or how little can properly be drawn from each of them while keeping references to other parts of Scripture to a minimum. We shall aim to see what can be determined with certainty about the meaning of each statement, to indicate the degree of support that various interpretations can claim, and to note points at which the careful student should reserve judgment. We shall utilize all the available linguistic, historical and archaeological material, and shall try to deal fully and carefully with each problem, but we shall endeavor to express the results of our investigation in language that can be understood by any educated layman.

It is all too easy to infer a conclusion from a passage of Scripture and then read this interpretation into another