

A.D. by an anti-Christian writer named Porphyry,<sup>2</sup> who declared that its alleged predictions of events prior to that time were based on the unknown writer's knowledge of past history, though presented as if predicted far in advance, and that its alleged predictions of later events were merely the guesses and hopes of its author.

This view was largely dormant during the Middle Ages, but in recent centuries it has been revived and is now generally held by critical scholars.

The present writer believes that Jesus Christ is the Lord of all things and that whatever He says is to be considered as true. Since Christ set the seal of His authority on the books of the Old Testament, one would expect His followers to believe its statements about Daniel having received visions while at the court of Nebuchadnezzar and to consider these visions as authentic revelations from God.

Since the present work intends to deal primarily with interpretation rather than criticism, it aims not so much to prove the authenticity of the book of Daniel as to determine its meaning. Therefore arguments for or against the critical theory of Porphyry will have little place in this book.<sup>3</sup> Yet some knowledge of the history of the time of Antiochus is an absolute necessity for interpreting Daniel 8 and 11. Pertinent details of this history will be examined in connection with our study of those chapters.

A number of brilliant scholars have devoted a great deal of time to the study of the words and phrases of the book of Daniel, and some of them have tried to interpret the entire book from the viewpoint that it was written at the time of the Maccabees. These interpretations will be carefully examined wherever they directly affect the meaning of any word or phrase in Daniel's prophecies.

When we discuss such interpretations we shall speak of the view that the book was written at the time of the Maccabees as the Maccabean view. The view that it was actually written in the time of Nebuchadnezzar and his successors we shall call the evangelical view. This must not be taken as necessarily characterizing everyone who holds to the Maccabean theory as not being evangelical, for there