

## **Dangers to Avoid**

### 1. Oversystematizing

In studying any part of the Bible we should be aware of certain common dangers. One that is extremely difficult to avoid is that of oversystematizing. On the basis of only a few facts one may build a whole system of interpretation, and then, as new facts are encountered, endeavor to fit them into the system that is already established in his mind. This danger is particularly acute in the study of predictions, which may contain references to facts or situations quite different from those known by the particular interpreter. It is natural to try to relate each verse to a preconceived system, forcing into line statements that resist such a relation, and passing over with little attention any that do not seem to fit.

Even in those fields of science where verification by experiment is possible this danger is always present. When tests are made to determine the effect of drugs on people there is always a control group, as it is recognized that preconceived ideas often affect the results produced by experimental drugs. If this danger is so great in matters that can be repeated under controlled conditions, there is even greater need to avoid it in areas in which the only evidence consists of interpretation of words and sentences. In the study of any portion of the Bible there are two reasons why it is vital to avoid oversystematizing: 1) There is always a danger of misinterpreting individual statements