

events, and none of them shed any direct light on occurrences in the more distant future.

There are many instances of this type of prediction. Another clear example is found in 1 Samuel 10:2ff. where Samuel tells Saul about the persons Saul will meet after they part, and informs him of the news that these persons will give him.

A similar instance is found in 1 Kings 11:31 where a prophet informs Jeroboam that God will eventually give him ten of the tribes then ruled by Solomon. Another instance is Daniel 4:24-26 where Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that God will make him live with the beasts of the field for a time, but will not take away his kingdom. Then the chapter tells how this prediction was literally fulfilled.

All these are specific predictions describing particular events that occurred exactly as predicted. When the predicted event has occurred there is no reason to look for further fulfillment.

Such predictions may be used as examples from which general spiritual lessons may be drawn. All of them are useful evidence of God's power to predict the future. But once the event has occurred the prediction does not give any reason to expect further events of a similar nature. Unless there is clear evidence that a prediction belongs to a different type, it should be considered as being in this category.

- 2) Occasionally a prediction is expressed in the plural and will require two or more events for its fulfillment. When Abraham was living as a sojourner in a strange land God predicted that "kings will come from you" (Gen. 17:6). Fulfillment of this prediction began as soon as descendants of Abraham reigned in the land of Edom (Gen. 36; note v. 31). It was further fulfilled when the