

work out the details with any fullness in advance. In the present volume it is our primary objective to see how prophecy has been fulfilled in the past and to learn principles of interpretation as we see the relation between the predictions and their fulfillment. It is an equally vital part of our task to distinguish between the passages that predict events that have already occurred, and those that clearly refer to what is yet to come.

The attempt to understand as much as possible about events that are still future requires great care. Full understanding of such predictions would require that they be brought into relationship with all relevant passages elsewhere in Scripture. In the present study we are not at tempting such a task because of our determination to make every possible effort to avoid circular reasoning. Before such passages can be properly studied in relation to one another it is desirable that thoroughly objective studies of all such passages in other Bible books be made, examining each passage by itself before seeking to relate them to one another. That task is a separate one, not within the compass of the present effort.

Notes

- ^{^1} On pages 120 to 128 of his commentary on Daniel, Jerome shows how 11:5-20 traces the course of the Seleucid kingdom in considerable detail through the reigns of the father and brother of Antiochus. Then he mentions Porphyry's claim that all the material from 11:21 to the end of the book deals with the actions of Antiochus himself. Jerome says: "those of our persuasion believe all these things are spoken prophetically of the Antichrist who is to arrive in the end." Thus he believes that there is a long unmentioned interval between vv. 20 and 21. Recognizing, however, that vv. 21-35 include remarkable pictures of events that occurred in connection with the life of Antiochus, Jerome says that Antiochus "is to be regarded as a type of the Antichrist, and those things which happened to him in a preliminary way are to be completely fulfilled in the case of Antichrist." The danger of this type of interpretation has been pointed out above (pp. 53-55). One should always try to interpret a detailed prediction as referring specifically to one individual or to one event. Verses 21 through 35 contain a remarkably accurate picture of the character and reign of Antiochus, but it is very difficult to find detailed statements in chapter 11 after verse 35 that can reasonably be said to fit with the known facts about this great persecutor.