

literally that anybody ever wrote of any length. Everything has figures of speech in it. Sometimes people talk about spiritualizing prophecy. I don't like the word. It's a bad word, but what is meant by it is, to take it as entirely figurative. Now to take something as entirely figurative you have no solid basis on which to stand. I think of figures of speech like salt that you put in a dish on the stove. You're cooking something and you put a pinch of salt in it to add tremendously to it. But if you pour a whole bucket of salt on it it ruins it. That's the way with figures of speech. Anything must be dominately literal but you must expect occasional figures of speech.

So I say everything in the Bible is true and it's largely literal, but as to what particular aspect may be figurative that's a matter for study and investigation. So here we read the sea is come up upon Babylon, and she is covered with the multitude of its waves. Babylon is several hundred miles inland. Did God cause a tidal wave to come up and overflow Babylon? I never heard of it. God certainly could do it if he choose. But I believe this verse is a figure of speech for the great forces of hostile armies crowding over Babylon. I believe the sea and the waves coming over is a figure for the great armies of the nations. Many times in Scripture the nations are spoken of as the sea, the shifting sea with its waves. If someone says, I don't believe that; I believe there is going to be a great tidal wave yet in the future. That is your priviledge to take it that way. I'm going to insist it's true whichever is the correct interpretation. I think mine is. But I'm just using it this moment as an introduction to the next verse. The next verse: "Her cities are a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness, a land in which no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass by it."

That's a perculiar thing to say, isn't it? In a day when Jeremiah wrote, up and ~~sit~~ down the side of the Epphrates and Tigris rivers there were great cities that had been there for over thousand of years. These cities were in great agricultural centers where they took the water from the Trigris and Euphrates rivers and they irrigated the land and grew tremendous crops. On those rivers the commerce went up and down; they were very active. Busy progressive cities. Some of them had been there for 1000 maybe 2000 years, when Jeremiah wrote. Jeremiah said, Her cities are a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness, a land in which no man dwelleth neither doth any son of man pass by it. What a tremendous thing to say about the cities of Babylon. You notice he doesn't say there is going to be a country like this. He doesn't say, This is the way it's going to be with one of Israel's enemies. He says, This is what's going to happen to the cities of Babylon. It's very specific. It does not say necessarily every one of them is going to be that way. But as to the cities at least to a good many, this would be their fate. Suppose that instead of saying that he'd said, The cities of Israel. Or the cities of Palestine. Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness A land in which no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass by it." Well, in 1921 Prof. Albright went to a little hill a few miles N. of Jerusalem, called "the hill of beans." He thought that this "hill of beans" --tell-el-phull-- as it is in the Arabic was the place where Saul's castle had been.