

There are two reasons why Biblical predictions are important. First, they are important to strengthen our faith in God. When we find something predicted in the Bible that is utterly contrary to what we would expect, and when the event occurs just as it was predicted, it strengthens our assurance that God controls all things, and that the Bible is His inerrant and dependable Word. In order to satisfy this purpose it is not necessary to tell everything about the future, or even everything that human beings would consider important. A few striking predictions that are utterly unexpected will completely satisfy this purpose.

The second purpose of Biblical prophecy is to give an idea of certain vital facts in God's plan for the future that will affect our present attitudes. It is with regard to these two important purposes that God determines which future events He will reveal.

This morning I would like to emphasize particularly the first of these two purposes of Biblical prophecy--that of strengthening our confidence in God's existence and power and increasing our certainty that the Bible is His dependable revelation. Therefore I shall now direct your attention to Jeremiah 51:41-43. I shall begin to read in the middle of verse 41, where Jeremiah is speaking about the great empire that controlled the world in his day. He says: "How is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations! The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof. Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby."

The first part of this quotation is a figurative description of the overthrow of Babylon. The coalition of nations that would attack her is described as "the sea" and as "the multitude of the waves thereof." These forces will put an end to the military and political greatness of Babylon.