

Secondly, it is not our purpose to determine the detailed course of events still future. In order to know what the Bible teaches about events that have not yet occurred in our day and are still future, it is necessary to compare all those parts of Scripture that deal with this matter. That is a big study. There are certain things that stand out absolutely clearly in it. There are other matters on which equally intelligent Christians can differ. That is not our purpose in this course. We are anxious to find how much there is in the book of Daniel that predicts things that have not yet happened. We are anxious to see what there is that we can say definitely has not yet occurred. Since Daniel is part of God's Word it definitely will occur. ~~But we can say from absolute positiveness from Daniel alone~~ and what we can say with absolute positiveness from Daniel alone as to how it will occur. So you see we have a rather restricted purpose in this particular course.

Our purpose is not so much specific results (though we will get a good many of them) as sound methods of Bible study. I am anxious that you get the definite ideas that are clearly taught in the prophecies of the book of Daniel. But I am even more interested that you get a correct understanding of correct methods of approaching these prophecies in order that you see what is definite and clear and that you see what there is on which differences of opinion can be had. It is so common in study the Bible to take a passage and to say, Well now this could be this way, it could be that way, it looks to me it is a little more probable that it is this way. And then a little further on we say, We have already proved that this is taught there! And we find a verse that seems to contradict it and we say, It could not contradict it so we have to interpret it in such a way as to fit it in. I believe it is important that we find what is clear in any part of Scripture. Then to explain the matters that are less clear in relation to the clear. Instead of taking certain conclusions on perhaps fair, but not absolute evidence and then twisting other things in line with it.

So method is my greatest purpose in this course, but I am sure we will get a good many results that are very much worth while.

Fourth, in this course I desire to look at the book by itself bringing in elsewhere from Scripture only what is absolutely clear. That statement is not strong enough. I don't mean that anything you find elsewhere in Scripture that is absolutely clear we are ready to bring in to this particular course. I mean that there are a few great definite Scriptural truths of which any Christian must agree that they are taught in the Bible. Aside from those we are going to simply look at Daniel and see what we find there. There are just a few points by which we will bring matters that are clearly taught elsewhere in the Scripture.

C. The Importance of the historical background (which I barely mention at this point). You cannot interpret Daniel in any proper way without bringing in the facts of ancient history. Of course, some of those facts are not well-known. As a matter of fact, in any history many of the facts are not well-known. If you were to write a history of everything that will happen in the world between now and 10:30 in these next 5 minutes, if you were to write such a history, the books that it would take would more than fill this room. Because every