

*Joel*

000517

It is the custom of the prophets to begin dealing with ~~affair~~ affairs of their own day . God gave the prophets wonderful visions of the distant future. Sometime they ~~x~~ gave them marvelous glimpses ~~of~~ into the future, of that which would happen hundreds and even thousands of years after their time, but I don't know of any instance where the prophet was a man simply went off by himself somewhere with no connections with the affairs of his own day, and God ~~h~~ gave him a vision to be passed on to the people . They were all active people who were vitally interested in the affairs of their day, interested in the problems of their day, interested in the people of their day, to ~~fl~~ follow the Lord as they ~~sho~~ should and presenting to these people God's wrath upon sin, declaring the judgment that was to come and then looking to the godly among the people --those who tend to give way to discouragement because of the judgment of God. They would look beyond the coming judgment to see marvelous blessings in the more distant future , but they start with the problems and the situation of their own day. Practically everything in the Bible starts with the time when it was written and looks on to the more distant future. We know that our Lord Jesus Christ himself when He would speak, usually would start with things ~~xx~~ in his own day. He might start with a parable , like the parable of the sower, where you would see the ~~x~~ sower going out and probably as they sat there and listened could probably see these things happening . And He ~~seul~~ would take that as a ~~stargin~~ starting point to go on to explain ~~x~~ some spiritual truth to them. Or , is it one day as He sat with His disciples and looked at the beautiful there in Jerusalem. Jesus looked at the temple and said The time is coming when not a single stone of this temple shall stand upon the other, ~~-and-when-~~ and went ahead to tell about the judgment that was coming just ~~forth~~ forty years from the time that He spoke , and then from that ~~he~~ He went on to tell of God's marvelous blessing and ~~te-~~ the things that were to happen at the end of the age. When we pick out a section of the prophets and try to interpret , ~~sin-~~ simply in relation to the distant future without thinking of the tie in with the prophets and the thing that was