

IN THAT DAY

Frequently in the prophetic books of the Old Testament one finds the phrase "in that day." A good example of this is Amos 9:11 where we have a great prophecy about that which Christ is to do and it is introduced with the words "in that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen," and so on. There are three ways in which this phrase "in that day" might be interpreted. Our aim must be to find what is the true interpretation of it through the Old Testament.

The first way in which the phrase might conceivably be interpreted is to take ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> as meaning "in the day of which I have just been speaking." That is our commonest usage in English. In almost any English sentence if we say "in that day" we will mean "I have just been talking to you about a certain time, now I'm going to tell you something else which will happen at that same time." Here, however, we must notice that the Hebrew does not have a separate word for "that" and for "this." The one Hebrew word is translated both ways in our English. It can be, then, either in "this" day or in "that" day. When we look at the various contexts in the Old Testament in which this phrase is used, we find many instances in which it cannot possibly refer to the period spoken of in the previous verse. It is very evidently it looks on to something beyond in many cases. Consequently, while we cannot say that it does not in any case mean "in the day of which I have just been speaking," it certainly cannot be held that this fits throughout.

Another suggestion, then, which would occur naturally would be that it might be "in the day of which I am about to speak." That looks forward instead of backward. This does not strike our English ear immediately as natural. However, that does not, of course, mean to say that it is unnatural in other languages. It is interesting to notice that one of our students, Mr. Frank Neuberg,<sup>who</sup> spoke both German and Czechish before he spoke English, uses this word "that" in a different way from that in which we use it in English. Whether he gets this usage from German or Czechish I do not know. However, I have often noticed that he will say "could it not be that way" and then he proceeds to tell what way he means. He