

J. Barton Payne, The Effect of Sennacherib's Anticipated Destruction in Isaianic Prophecy. WTJ, 33-34; 1970-72, p.35-38

The Nature of Biblical Prophecy

1. It is historical. It arises out of real situations in time and space.
2. It is moral. Relates to contemporaneous preaching about sin & righteousness.
3. It is evangelistic. Motivates men to a commitment to God.
4. It is predictive. Foretelling constitutes a major part of prophecy.
5. It is messianic. Attains its climax in right. reign of Christ.

The Form of prophecy.

6. It is literal. Land of Edom means that and not worldliness or Armageddon
7. It is poetic. Parallelism and occasional hyperbole. The "forever of 32:15 is "until" the Spirit is poured upon us."
8. It may be figurative. 30:25-26 For a figurative interpretation to be valid it should be one which Isa. himself intended to have been so understood. The context validates the fact that contemporaneous (hence figurative) understanding was so intended.

The Fulfillment of biblical prediction.

9. It is necessary. 30:19
10. It is preferably near. The closest adequate fulfillment becomes the most natural and best. Of the 124 1/2 vv. that are predictive in Is. 29-35, all but 19 appear directly connected with the activity of Sennacherib., in 701.
11. Fulfillment is simple. Meaning is not manifold but one.
12. It may be progressive.
13. Fulfillments may be similar. A prediction may resemble another without becoming its equivalent.
14. They may be telescoped. Prophecy is capable of foreshortening its predictions by leaping directly from the near to the far horizon without notice of extended intervening events. e.g. from Sennacherib in 31:9 to the Messiah in the next verse, ~~32~~ 32:1
15. They may be cyclic.
16. Occasionally ambiguous. Prophecies vary in their perspicuity. Some fulfillments have to remain inferential