

past. The purpose of His prophecy is to encourage His people and to warn those who oppose His beneficent plans. He desires to help us live our lives as we should. It all has a practical purpose. This practical purpose can be served by giving us definite information about certain important elements in His plan for the future. Naturally He cannot tell us all the details, nor does He attempt to list everything in chronological order. He has revealed such information about future events and future situations as would serve a useful purpose in relation to practical problems in the lives of the people to whom the Bible was first given, or in the lives of those who should read it in later times. Thus we cannot expect to have every question answered, and we shall find aspects of prophecy on which equally earnest interpreters may differ. We shall, however, find many passages which are so clearly stated and so definite in their meaning that if we will only look at them with an open mind, sincerely trying to determine exactly what they mean, there should be no difficulty in our agreeing as to what God predicts in them.

One reason why many persons doubt the Utopian schemes and splendid visions of those who think that governmental action can produce universal happiness is their recognition of the selfishness and greed that is universal to humanity. They see the sin and trouble of the world, and know that deliverance is to be found only through the One who gave His life on Calvary's cross to redeem from sin all who will put their trust in Him. If all men would turn to Christ and be transformed, we might reasonably expect that a condition of universal happiness would follow, but so long as there are those who reject Him and maintain in their hearts the selfishness and violence of sin, there are sure to be outbreaks of misery and