

terror. All the existentialist and pessimistic writings of the present day bear witness to the fact of evil in men's hearts and to the certainty that it will express itself in one way or another.

God alone knows whether calamity and failure is ahead, or whether the world can look forward to a long period of joy and happiness. In fact, when we study the Bible to see what God reveals of the future, we find that both are true. The future holds misery, terror, and tribulation for the world, yet a means has been provided by which men, if they will turn to Christ, may escape from it. There is also ahead a great time of happiness and peace, far surpassing the expectations of those who look to government policies or to the United Nations to produce such a Utopia.

It is our present purpose to determine from the Bible what is ahead for this world. Therefore we are for the moment interested only in those parts of the Bible that relate to this important theme. Moreover, it is not our intention to try to consider all such passages. We shall not seek to gather all that God has revealed about the future, and try to understand it all. Rather we are desirous of gaining a few main guidelines that will give us God's answers to a few principal questions. In those passages that we shall consider, sometimes an examination of the context of the prophecy will make its meaning absolutely clear. In some other cases it may be less easy to determine exactly what is meant. It is our purpose to look only at some of the clearest of the predictions, and from them to secure principles and to lay down a foundation. If we can lay a solid groundwork of matters definitely and clearly taught in the Bible that are vital for men to know today, the purpose of this little book will have been realized.