

the downfall of Samaria, and it came to pass within their own day, in the reign of Hezekiah. Isaiah foretold the recovery of Hezekiah from his sickness, and how on the third day he should go up to the house of the Lord. And he foretold certain things in the reign of Ahaz. These nearer prophecies were justified, and the fact that they were fulfilled, gave the men who heard them a ground for faith in the more distant events—the prophecies of things to come. And so with Jeremiah. Jeremiah was constantly predicting in the face of unbelief the coming of the Chaldeans, the power of Nebuchadnezzar, and the fall of Jerusalem. So it came to pass. The things which he prophesied which were near to come were fulfilled. There is evidence that other things which he foretold, but which have not yet come to pass, will also be fulfilled in their time. Ezekiel, again, who prophesied in the land of captivity, foretold to those captives that were with him how the Jews should come out of their own land into the land of captivity, and what manner of persons they should be. He foretold exactly, both by sign and word, the flight of King Zedekiah from Jerusalem; how he was to dig through the wall in the twilight and carry his goods upon his shoulder just like any other common man, and how he was to be brought to Babylon, and not to see the place, although he should die there. And other things far more wonderful and yet unfulfilled are in the prophecies of Ezekiel. The same evidence by which the men who heard them gave credit to their predictions of nearer events may suffice for us to believe in their testimony regarding things to come. And Daniel again. Look at that chapter in Daniel (iv.) where he interpreted the king's dream, a chapter which I think you may call the first epistle of Nebuchadnezzar to the Gentiles. "Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth, peace be multiplied unto you," What does he tell? He tells of a dream. He told it to all the wise men, and no one could interpret it. At last they brought in Daniel. He heard the dream, and he interpreted it; and the upshot of it was that for seven years Nebuchadnezzar was to live like a beast instead of a man. He was to lose his senses, and eat grass as oxen. And Nebuchadnezzar himself tells you how the thing came to pass, and how, after seven years