

earlier and later (not exactly as the Jews did, but), first taking the prophets before the canon of the prophetic books began—the prophets from Moses (say) down to about the time of Jonah. Did they foretell things to come in their lifetime? Everyone of them. Joshua foretold the exact time of the falling of the walls of Jericho; Samuel foretold the thunderstorm and the very persons who would meet Saul on the day he left him after he was anointed, and where they would meet him, and what they would be carrying, and so on to the minutest detail. Many things were foretold about David. David himself foretold the death of Goliath and the defeat of the Philistines. And David's seer, Nathan, was a prophet. Nathan foretold the death of one child and the birth of another. God offered David the choice of three things which would come upon him. Again, Ahijah told the wife of Jeroboam the very hour her child should die. Ahijah, Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah, the son of Imlah, all of them in their time foretold events in their exact time, and place, and detail. Their words came to pass. And Jonah, too, and so on. There is not a man whom you can find, named or unnamed—the man of God that came from Judah to Jeroboam, and the man that came to Ahab in his wars with Syria—but foretold what was coming, and it was fulfilled. All of them satisfied that test, that the things that they said would really come to pass. Then we come to the canonical prophets, whom we call prophets more strictly and properly, the "goodly fellowship of the prophets," from Isaiah down to Malachi. They satisfied the same test. Only their prophecies (all the more distinctly and remarkably as you may say) come under two heads; things foretold which were to happen in their own lifetime, and things in time afar off concerning Christ and His kingdom and His coming—the first coming which has been fulfilled, and that other coming which they did not distinguish. You cannot distinguish the first and the second coming of Christ in the words of the prophets apart from the New Testament. They foretold both; sometimes both in one sentence. But they satisfied the same test. Some of the things which they foretold came to pass in their lifetime and were verified. Some are still to come to pass. Isaiah, for instance, and all the group of prophets that go with him, foretold