

ancient land. At the same time, we see in verses 23-30, Judah shall be delivered from the power of Babylon, and shall dwell again securely in its old home. Then no longer shall Israel hold itself aloof from Judah in the old way, but it shall recognize Jerusalem as the centre of the national life and the dwelling-place of its God (verses 6 and 12). Now, it is certain that what is here said of Israel has never been fulfilled. Israel has never had any possession of its ancient territory, nor has it, in any sense, had a dwelling-place upon the mountain of Samaria. It is equally clear that these words can have no fulfilment in the future, for the distinction between the two kingdoms, such a distinction, at least, as these words suppose, and suppose to be continuous, has utterly perished. Moreover, even if we could suppose this distinction to be yet in existence, as the advocates of the Anglo-Israel notion claim, still the prophecy could have no fulfilment, for the time indicated in the prophet's words, when rightly interpreted, as the time of the coming to pass of the things spoken of, must appear in the fulfilment to make the fulfilment a real one. A prediction which errs in the time of the predicted event is as unfulfilled, or as false, as one which errs in the fact. But the time to which the prophet refers throughout our chapter, is the time immediately succeeding the Babylonian exile. It is in this time, and without the intervention of a worse captivity or exile, that the events of this chapter are, according to the prophet's teaching, to be realized. To scatter the nation again through the long centuries of the present dispersion, and then to cause even the events foretold in this chapter to come to pass, would not be to fulfil the prediction of the prophet Jeremiah. If there is a promise made among men to pay fifty dollars to a certain person next week, it is not considered a keeping of one's word to pay the money to his children twenty years after his death. This may be a commendable form of conduct, a showing of works meet for repentance, but it is not a fulfilling of prophecy.

Let us take, as another case of unfulfilled prophecy, Isaiah lxvi. 12-24. In the discussion of this passage, we use the term Israel in its broader sense. As thus employed, it denotes the