

25), which describes the cementing and abiding rule of David, received not even the semblance of a literal fulfillment in the post-Babylonish history of Israel. There are some interpreters indeed who find in this very prediction of the rule of David an insuperable objection to the literal fulfillment of the prophecy, who argue that if such fulfillment requires a literal Israel and a literal Canaan, it equally requires that the literal David should be raised from the dead, and once more rule over the heritage of God.

But surely such reasoning is illogical. The Jewish people, whose conversion and restoration we look for, are not the identical individuals of whom the prophet speaks as the subjects of dispersion and decay, but their lineal descendants, viz., those who shall be found living upon the earth at the time appointed of God for their return. In like manner the King who shall reign over the twelve tribes is not the identical David, but his literal, lineal descendant, the last of the line of Jewish kings; of whom it was announced that "the Lord God would give unto Him the throne of His father David, and that he should reign over the house of Jacob for ever," even Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. No, the vision before us is no ideal picture of coming good, drawn under the form and encased in the literalities of the old land and people of the covenant, but intended only to be used as a ladder by which we are to rise, a leading string by which we are to feel our way to what is above and