

Questions:

1. What are the two extremes in reading and interpreting prophecy?
2. What are the characteristics of biblical prophecy?
3. What are the features of biblical prophecy?
4. What are the prophets' self-understanding of their prophecies?
5. What are the principles for interpreting prophecy?

Answers:

1. A wholesale avoidance and general apathy toward the subject (usually due to the excess observed in its use by some., or the creation of a hobby-horse.
2. 1) Biblical prophecy plainly foretells things to come without clothing them in ambiguities similar to some of the oracles of the pagan nations. 2) It is designed and intended to be a prediction rather than a retrospective declaration, an unwitting prophecy, or a "lucky guess" that just happened by chance to come to pass. 3)It is written, published, or proclaimed prior to the event it refers to and is happening that could not have been foreseen by ordinary human sagacity. 4) It is subsequently fulfilled in accordance with the words of the original prediction. 5) Prophecy does not work out its own fulfillment, but it stands as a witness until the event has taken place.6) A biblical prophecy is not an isolated prediction, but it can be correlated with other prophecies and as such is one of a long series of predictions.
3. They are of intelligibility, definiteness, and organic unity.
4. 1) The prophets were aware of the results of their prophecies, 2) The prophets were aware of the implications of their prophecies, 3) The prophets were told things that were humanly impossible to know, 4) The prophets related their predictions to contemporary events and circumstances.
5. 1) Unconditional prophecies must be distinguished from conditional and sequential ones 2) Terms borrowed from Israel's history may be used to express the future, 3) Recurring prophetic formulas mark the presence of prophetic passages.

Terms:

1. Prophetic perspective: The phenomenon of blending together both the near and the distant aspects of the prediction in one and the same vision.
2. Unilateral: one-sided.
3. Double sense of prophecy: a prophetic passage has two different senses, each separated from the other in the contexts of both Testaments.

Summary:

Biblical prophecy is always a problematic topic, especially today. In order to better interpret those prophecies in the Bible, we need to know their characters of them and their features. We need to study their

historical and cultural contexts, and we need more good commentary books as well.