

Amos 5: 18 the day of the Lord is distinctly connected with condemnation on Israel.

A further objection to the referring of this passage to the invasion of Babylonia by the Medes and Persians is found by some in vss. 10 and 13, which speak of catastrophes ~~in~~ the heavens, of stars and constellations which shall not give their light. It seems that this objection is not an objection to the literal interpretation of prophecy but rather on the assumption that the author ~~can~~ use no metaphor or poetic description in his prediction of events. As a matter of fact we have noticed similar metaphors in 29: 6, where it says that the enemies of Jerusalem will be visited by thunder, earthquake, noise, and storm, and the flame of a devouring fire. In our present chapter the strictest literal interpretation will show that it is not meant that the heavens will pass away and the world will come to an end, because it goes on to speak of Babylon as a continual waste forever, and it speaks of the Lord choosing Jacob and setting them again in their own land. The reference to the Medes, finally, is decisive. There is no further fulfillment of the prophecy needed, obviously, than that which did take place in the time of the overthrow of Babylon and through the following years. Sceptics, of course, approaching this passage, have objected that the desolation here predicted for Babylon as a matter of fact did not take place. They would be willing to admit that the prophecy is not to find its fulfillment in the end time; they only say that the prophet was ~~wrong~~ slightly wrong. Although he saw the downfall of Babylon approaching, he overstepped the mark and, speaking as a statement, of course they believe, rather than as a prophet of God, he prophesied that which did not exactly come to pass.

(continued from last page) shown to bring on a confusion incompatible with the united testimony of tradition, the New Testament, and the literary unity so well brought out by such as G.L. Robinson (article on "Isaiah", I.S.B.E.).