

Lecture 16: Prophecy and Historicism

February 19, 2020

The Assyrian Invasion (701 BC)

King Ahaz, a northern conspiracy, and tribute money for the Monster Nation

Illus. Curing a rabbit problem with a mountain lion

King Hezekiah, a spiritual reformation, and no tribute money for the Monster Nation

Illus. Like a hut in a cucumber field (Isa. 1:8)

What do you think of the Assyrian attitude?

Boasts of the Rabshakeh!

What do you think of Hezekiah's response?

Tell the prophet, tell the Lord—the seed-of-David zeal for God's name (cf. 1 Sam. 17).

Poem: "The Destruction of Sennacherib" (Lord Byron)

One angel, one night... 185,000 dead—the cylinder of Sennacherib ("...as a bird in a cage...").

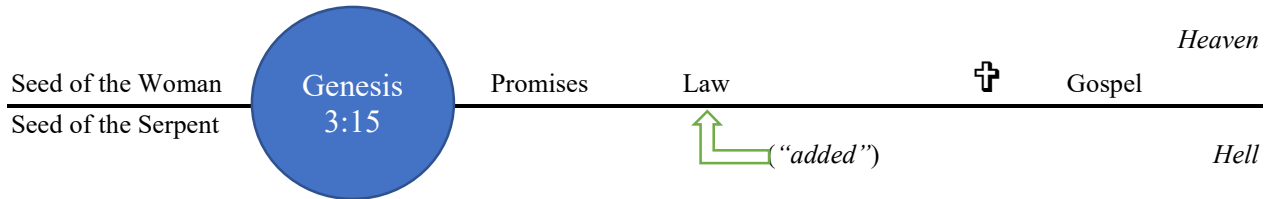
How might a naturalist explain this event?

miracle or medicine or both?

Hezekiah's Illness

Terminal Condition – bitter weeping and prayer and fifteen more years (Isa. 38)

Boasting to Babylon – coming doom, but no bitter weeping and prayer... why? (Isa. 39)



Gospel – lit. **good news**

— Old English – *good spell*, as in *spelling* —

The gospel is the good news that God is now fulfilling His promises in the person and work of His Son Jesus Christ.

Christianity is not...

...an ideal (philosophy)

...an ethic (morals)

...but an EVENT (good news)! ~ That is why *faith* is so important!

What else can you do with news?

News only affects us, if we believe it.

Why the Law then?

After all, Promise and Fulfillment makes a lot of sense of the OT and NT combination.

Ans. The Law increases sin and shows our desperate need for justification and transformation (New Covenant).

The Monotheism Challenge to the Idols

"Declare the things that are going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods;

Indeed, **do good or evil**, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together" (Isa. 41:23).

Not proving the Bible, but the God of the Bible—not by mere prediction, but by the power to act!

God bears witness to Himself in history—He acts (185,000), He speaks (prophecy)—contra the fact-value split.

Historicism

You live in a Box: Universe Seamless web? Inevitable progress? Laws of history? Scientific naturalism?

C. S. Lewis Analogy (made American with a pickup!)



How much can you see at present? In the past?
Can you predict the future road from the past? Curve? Bridge out?

Possible Responses: *Skepticism* – no one knows... ←honest, but hopeless

Tradition – the group knows more... ←comforting, but a false hope

Revelation – ask the driver or a helicopter... ←consult the Map!