

These books carry us through the formative stages of Israel's history. They assume the reality of the Pentateuch narrative and experience...another argument, incidentally, for the authenticity of those ideals. As these books are built on the Pentateuchal records, the works of the prophets and poets are set against them.

c. Summary Characteristics

(1) E.J. Young (INTRODUCTION, p. 157) has put it well, we think, by calling them... "An interpretative history of God's dealings with the theocratic nation." The word "interpretative" is important since it is apparent the material used is selective and built to the redemptive end.

(2) They may be also described as a complement to the particular history of the latter prophets.

(3) And finally, they note the development of the national history in the light of the Pentateuch. To that end they show the interesting fulfillment of the Mosaic prophecies concerning the children of Israel.

2. The Problems of History

We could pick these up any time but this is an appropriate time to mention them as the former prophets are enormously historical. The following problems are those that interest us the most.

a. Philosophical

(1) History writing

The area of interest concerns the relation of events to records. This includes the "why" and the purpose in writing. If these can be understood they will help us see the nature and usefulness of the writing. Since it is obvious not all things have been written, the question is, "Why was this written?" If we follow the unfolding redemptive theme in the Biblical narration, we have a clue to the selection of material and the purpose of biblical history writing.

(2) History Interpretation

This considers the interesting concept of what the events mean in their telling...How are they to be understood. We are able to get a grip on