

on its own. Being difficult to find synchronisms makes it even more problematic to keep dates contemporary.

(3) The lack of harmony

By this we mean a neutral ground for comparing all histories.

(4) The means of association (compilation)

Not that we must know all of this material in exact sequence but it becomes an increasing problem in the books that harmonize (such as Kings and Chronicles...or later on, the Gospels) and the understanding of the materials chosen for the books

(5) The inter-relation of written and/or oral tradition

In conservative circles we play down the oral tradition and where it is involved we feel indebtedness to the Holy Spirit. But that same oral tradition is involved (with the above qualification) and it would be hard to doubt it. Surely no one thinks these books were written by travelling secretaries with pad and pencil in hand.

(6) Dating in general

The varying forms of countings used and the lack of an absolute "zero" are considerable historical handicaps.

c. Personal problems

This is a group of problems that constitute individual matters in our application to the Scripture.

(1) The story tendency

This is the tendency to make the books of history mere over-development of Sunday School stories. It is natural to use them for some exemplary matters but this should not be the end of the study.

(2) The age problem

Call them ages or dispensations or whatever you wish. The fact is that as ages come and go and as the progress of revelation is onward, the