

various ways of God in dealing with man become more pronounced. Many reformed scholars fear the term "dispensation" and some of the contemporary teachers equally fear the word "covenant." But how one views these things will affect his interpretation of these books of prophecies. Ironically, the end result comes out about the same but no one wishes to believe it that way.

(3) Over-identification

The temptation is to over-identify places and persons in the older order with our new world. And this is true both in prophetic fulfillment and in modern ideology representations, we note. Somehow it is assumed that all of the older instructions must fit a pattern in which we are also identical parts.

(4) Doctrine searching

The quest for particular doctrines in isolated historical incidents is a big affair for some. This is not to deny the overall thrust of the doctrine in history, however. But the dogmas raised by historical incidents need clarification in the rest of Scripture.

(5) Generalization

There is always a potential for generalizing and dismissing an important facet of truth due to its place in time and presentation in history...this is the opposite side of point 4.

(6) Minimization

A trend to minimize unpleasant matters if occasionally observed...such things as the Benjamite warfare, etc.

d. Theory in the study of history

Our theory is that the study of the historical books not only tells us what happened in times past but also give us a fair idea of what will happen in time to come. To some the value of history is limited to the past. It is true that we are not able to control the world by what we know, but we are certainly able to make adjustments in our own conduct. The episode of Gideon's ephod, for example, could be enormously significant to modern leaders if they saw a value in