

5. Use

Note how the former prophets are used in the Old Testament in such passages as Zechariah 7-8 and in the New Testament with the citations of the Lord speaking and acting.

And following this ferociously quick trip in this part of the Biblical literature, we will move to the latter prophets.

C. The Latter Prophets1. Introductory notes:

a. Data on book division is given earlier in the course. We will not repeat it at this point. The latter prophets include most of the "writing prophets" of the English Bible. In the seminary curriculum there is a whole course given to the prophetic literature and the purpose in these notes is to offer only a general summary of what should be known by the student in an introductory sense.

b. Consequently, no breakdown is given book by book and there is no content analysis of the individual books. This material may be had from any of the standard texts or handbooks. We repeat that it should be part of the student's fund of learning but, unfortunately, he will have to get it some other place than in this course.

c. General characteristics of the prophetic (latter) literature:

(1) The concept of immediate revelation of the will of Jehovah.

Marked especially by the "Thus saith the Lord" concepts. The former prophets tell about things and persons...they record much that God said and did. But the latter prophets show the historical sequence and the words of God at a given time. Their claim to immediate revelation and inspiration is much more graphic and quick. As noted somewhat earlier in this course, the words and the actions of the prophets when speaking so, are regarded with as much authority as is the earlier written word.

(2) The wide use of speech figure and poetic image.