

(6) God's program for the expansion of the Gospel and the saving message.

5. Note on prophecy and Fulfillment

This is one of the oldest and most emphatic apologetic approaches in Christendom. The earliest fathers made strong appeal to it as did the church of the middle ages. Martyr (Justin) apparently paved the way. In our present setting Dr. Newman has done a lot of work in this field and the giving of the future still serves as a strong indication that one has contact with powers beyond oneself.

D. The Hagiographa

1. Introductory Notes

a. The hagiographa (sacred writings) includes the books of poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Job), the histories (Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles), the Megilloth (Ruth, Eccl., Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Esther), and Daniel. It is the third major section in the Hebrew Old Testament and its books are scattered throughout the English Bible arrangement.

b. We do not go into detail on the individual books. The BTS course on Old Testament Poetical Books will deal with the Psalms and Job. Many of the other books are treated in elective fashion.

c. As the material in the section differs widely, it is not possible to give a general characteristic of the whole. We note the following of the portions:

(1) Psalms, Proverbs, Job...are marked by the standard characteristics of Hebrew poetry: no rhyme and only a strongly suggested meter but with a pronounced cadence that may alter pronunciation or accentation.

The Poetic books have an accent system of their own...some terms in common with the regular Hebrew but a new stress on some marks and an introduction of marks not seen in the normal narrative literature.

They are marked with a characteristic parallelism for which the following terms are descriptive:

(a) Synonymous: the same thing is said in slightly different words with the repetition