

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AT LARGE

A. The Nature of the Course

1. It is primarily an investigative Bible study with a lot of work in the analysis of statistics! Hopefully some ideas will be developed from these that will prove beneficial in further Bible study.
2. It is not an original work..similar works have been done by many persons but not by this class. Likewise, every time the teacher goes over this material some new facet comes to mind that is helpful and was not seen before. There are some books in the field and I will mention them to you in broad detail.
3. Likewise there are a few helps that are useful...all of which are readily available. But nothing quite equals the result of doing it yourself and, to a large extent, that is what this course is. It is not so much of a lecture course as it is a study course although the present teacher easily falls into a lecturing mode if the class allows it.
4. Our particular interest in the subject grows from the following concepts:
 - a. The most obvious is the amount of Old Testament material that is found through the New. One must wonder why it is there..why some is selected and other parts not..and why and how it is used.
 - b. But we are also drawn to the subject by shifts in theological perspective..as in current movements in the older dispensational ideology, et al. There seems to be a growing appreciation for the Old Testament's contribution to our modern theological understanding.
 - c. And we are also drawn to the subject by some hermeneutical concerns and the idea that if we can see how the New Testament writers used the Old Testament, perhaps we can make better use of it than is often done.
 - d. While our desire for a fuller biblical understanding is also a basic cause of our interest. If the Word is as important to us as we stress in credal ways, it is vital we enlarge and enrich our understanding of it in as many practical areas as possible.
 - e. And finally, in this regard, a sense of appreciative learning enters the picture. The opportunity to know and practice is very real and we do ourselves no good if we do not take advantage of the privilege of learning more of God's revelation.

All of these things are powerful forces in the development and need for our study.