

E. Historical Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament

1. Defining the idea:

- a. In the purest sense the historical use involves citations from the historical books of the Old Testament and from the prophetic literature developed in those periods.
- b. In a broader sense the expression means citations from the historical data in the Old Testament wherever it occurs. The concept is that the New Testament treats these as items of history and there are two sub ideas involved:
 - (1) while it is not easy to do so, there must be some distinction made between historical observation and theological application,
 - (2) and the citations as such must not be confused with the categories or purposes of use as on Column VI of our citation chart.
- c. Essentially the idea is that the New Testament writers saw the Old Testament as true history and thereby understood it to be a platform on which their work was built.

2. Character of usage:

- a. Actual quotations are less than in the psalm citations, prophetic fulfillments, etc...while general citations are more numerous...
- b. Allusions are much more comon and, while I have not been stressing it in this course, there are more "suspicious" as well.
- c. And the bulk of the citations come not from the "court records" (Samuel, Kings, etc.) but from the works of the former prophets, the law, etc.

3. On the nature of citations:

1. Many of the citations related to genealogical data..it is historical, of course, and you can see a good example of it in Matthew 1, et al, and in expressions such as "the son of David"
2. Events are cited with less theological implications and more as simple events that verify a particular part of the work or revelation that the Lord offers.
3. Citations of persons and events are never conjectural but are historical proofs, to the New Testament writer, of the reality of the background for which one speaks.
4. Some citations are given in the "fulfillment of prediction" concept..the historical circumstance now being seen as fulfilled in the New Testament age. (Acts 3:22)
5. Consequently some citations of persons and events are to illustrate some truth or application of that truth to a given setting.