

3. Some final thoughts on things you will want to know better:
  - the great revivals: what produced them and what negated their influence
  - how the promise of covenant to David is fulfilled
  - the role of idolatry in the spiritual ruin of the kingdoms
  - are the "ten tribes" really lost
  - Israel's relations and influence on the nations about her.

F. Concluding notes on the Former Prophets

1. The books show in strong fashion the development of the nation in accord with the covenantal arrangement.
2. They dramatize the role of obedience, yieldedness, and truth as operating means among the people of God.
3. They illustrate powerfully the ability of God to achieve His purposes and execute His will.

Note: Appendix IV includes some materials on the Former Prophets: miracles, nationalization, rebellion.

V. THE LATTER PROPHETS

The prophetic canon of the Old Testament, you will remember, is divided into two parts: the Former Prophets and the Latter Prophets. The Latter Prophets consist of the writings of the individual prophets and the books have assignment by name or character identification. Although the larger ones touch very much on the history of Israel they are not historical books... that is, they tend to map out a message from God without all the specifics of historic change and growth. It means that the student of these books must be a very careful student of the historical background, context, etc., since the books themselves often give it in only skeletal form. This material is found in fuller detail in the former prophets, of course, and in historical studies in the rest of the Old Testament.

The prophet is an interesting person. He is raised up of God and is not dependent on genealogy or immediate family. Some prophets seem to have been sons of prophets...others just show up. They speak for God and that is what prophecy basically means. They both "foretell" and "forthtell" and the latter is by far the larger part of their message. The test of the prophets is given in Deuteronomy 13 and 18 and their only claim to success is that they correctly give a word from God. Originally the term "seer" is used but eventually other terms are introduced. The term really does not matter so much as does the character of the service. God must be represented, what the prophet says must come to pass.

Prophecy is not exclusively a biblical institution but prophecy that must be fulfilled is rather a Biblical exclusive. Note carefully the content of Appendix V.