

MESSAGE # 3: OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS ABOUT GOD, HIS PEOPLE AND HIS PROGRAM

Biblical Passages: 1 Samuel 17, Jeremiah 27, Zechariah 4

I. Introducing the Subject:

It is a great mistake to see the Old Testament as just a story book or a book of illustrations. It certainly provides plenty of both as it covers centuries, nations, and individuals. But it is really the story of redemption fleshed out in God's dealing with His people. It is a book of doctrine and theology and very practical teachings that benefit all of life and it should be studied that way. The principles that arise from the accounts are sometimes simply stated and at other times must be deduced. *This latter is tricky for it is important to see that the deduction is harmonious with the whole of the biblical revelation.* In this talk I will look at three Old Testament passages and see how the give us something to think about with regard to God, Himself, His people and His program.

II. Discussion:

A. 1 Samuel 17..The David and Goliath incident.

The account is totally temporal, personal, local and literal. But it teaches a principle that, stated simply, is just this: Those trusting in God are better prepared, equipped, and competent than the enemies that surround them. We see in dramatic form the power of God, the wisdom of God, and the enablement of God and gives us courage that agrees heartily with Philippians 4:13

B. Jeremiah 27...the prediction of the Babylonian captivity, etc.

Jeremiah 27-29 constitute an interesting trilogy of chapters. In 27, the captivity is predicted, in 28 the views of false prophets are exposed, and in 29 the captives are urged to trust God and His wisdom throughout the whole captivity. It is essentially temporal and local and referring to Israel but demonstrating God control and His redemptive purposes with the declaration that He will bring it to pass. It beautifully shows the work of God as agreeing with Romans 8 and 1 Peter 5:7.