

all that He has promised for the future. The Lord is coming. Hallelujah. But if you do not believe....and with this you can see how God intertwines the history realities with the redemptive workings. It is a great study and the Old Testament is simple full of it. If you have a taste for reading heavier stuff: Hengstenberg: Christology of the Old Testament, will give you plenty of things to think about.

* * * * *

MESSAGE # 5: NOTES ON THE STUDY OF POETRY

Biblical Passage: Psalm 101

I. Introducing the Subject:

The study of poetry, believe it or not, is more complicated than the study of prophecy. This is due to the fact that poetry has a number of literary forms and devices that are not common in our culture or at least as we think of it. I cannot detail it all in this discussion and C. Hassel Bullock (Moody Press) offers a good treatment in his work "Old Testament Poetical Books". There is a great amount of poetry in the Old Testament and the Psalms immediately come to mind although there is much else besides them...the book of Isaiah, incidentally, is mostly poetry. But in the Psalms while we have a great variety or historical background and religious experience, we also have very often a simple, uncomplicated declaration of worship and adoration. Our hearts are opened by the Psalms in ways not easily described but very easily experienced. For this discussion I am simply looking at Psalm 101.

II. Discussion:

- A. The first thing, I suppose, in the study of any psalm is to notice as much as possible,
1. the author
 2. the circumstances
 3. the apparent purpose
 4. and the data in our simplified approach.

B. Then we look at the Psalm and we discover: