

The Things Surely to Be Believed, Part II

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Jonah-Malachi.

B. The Old Testament complements the New Testament with perfect harmony.

II. Question and Answer.

A. Salvation is always on the same basis--faith in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament He is seen through types and symbols.

B. Salvation was based upon the sacrifices that pictured Christ's sacrifice in the New Testament.

C. Man is made in God's image in the sense of man's inner being--they both have feelings and think, etc. God does not have a body--He is spirit.

D. The Catholic Bible has more books, but they are not of the same character and they were not widely accepted as Scripture.

E. The Old Testament provides pictures for us to understand how New Testament believers should live.

F. The chronology of the Old Testament is a challenge--it is nearly impossible to date events because of gaps, etc.

III. Study of the Prophets.

A. The prophets are the expounders of the great promises of God.

1. Someone has said that there are 3000 promises for us to be claimed today.

2. A promise is a commitment of self--when God makes a promise He is committing Himself.

3. All the promises are based upon God's character.

4. One either believes or rejects a promise.

B. Jonah.

1. The message of this book is the promise of a second chance.

2. It shows God's patience.

C. Micah.

1. It has been called Isaiah in shorthand for it summarizes the themes, prophecies and wording of Isaiah.

2. This is the book of pardon.

D. Nahum.

1. This is the prophecy of the destruction of Nineveh.

2. The lesson is that God does not change.

E. Habakkuk.

1. This book gives the eternal question to why God allows evil to happen.

2. This book becomes the promise of ultimate answers.

3. The key verse is "the just shall live by faith" quoted in Galatians, Romans, and Hebrews.

F. Zephaniah.

1. This is the book of God's wrath.

2. It sets forth the burning jealousy of God.

3. There could be no love on God's part without His wrath.

G. The books coming after the Babylonian captivity: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

1. Haggai links the spiritual and the physical--the prophet warns against material prosperity. We must have God in the center of our lives.

2. Zechariah is the Apocalypse of the Old Testament. Its message is the promise of encouragement in God in dark days.

3. Malachi gives the promise of God's responsibility. It reveals God's answer to the failure of man because of his blindness. Malachi is a great book to show the answer for breaking through darkness, and it closes with a fore-view of the coming of John the Baptist and the Second Coming of Jesus. (I Thessalonians 5)

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament?

2. Why is having an understanding of God's promises important for spiritual growth?

3. Which book of the Bible covered in the message is especially important for you at this time in your life? Explain.
