

All our course this year is called Old Testament History. This does not mean the history of the OT. We deal with that more in the course of OT ~~Intro~~ ~~Introd.~~ which the middlers had last year and which the juniors will take next year. We deal there with the question: where did we get the old Testament? Where did it come from? What is it's nature? We are not interested in this chapter in the origin of the OT except incidentally, we are interested in it's content. We are interested in not in the history of the OT, but the history that is in the OT. Not what the historians tell us about the OT, but what does the OT tell of history. Now a very large portion of the OT is history of one sort or another. Some books are entirely made up of history. Other books of course are poetry or prophecy, proverbs, some other type of literature and there is only a little history in that, for there is some history in every book. But some books are almost entirely history so this year we are going to try to look at some of these books that are mostly history and get an idea of their content and of their nature and their dependability. It is important that as we start a course like this that we have a little idea of what we mean by history and just what history is. ~~This~~ I did not go into this particular question at all in the course of Church History. We will take a few minutes on it now and what we say will be equally important in that connection as it is with this. History is not simply a ~~rough~~ record of what has happened. If you were to list how many people came into Wilmington everyday on the train and how many went out, and what everyone of us did everyday, that would not be a history. Some people think of history as simply a list of rules and dates when they ruled, and how they came to be elected. This is a little nearer to history than the idea that it is everything that happens, because it is attempting to deal with those things that happened which effect a greater number of people. History as a whole or history of any particular subject is the account about