

to suggest ideas to the listeners. It was important to give specific evidence that what the NT writer was saying was true. The stories of the OT make illustrations for the NT writers. It is very important to understand the NT, but in itself how is it important to the Christian? How should we use it? Well the thing that naturally occurs to us is, number 1

1. It is - It can be used as a textbook of history. Now the modernists of today would not consider it a textbook of history. The book used in many Pa. highschools tells about the myths of the OT. The book also points out^t that all of the Pentateuch was written hundreds of years after the time of the events, it gives the whole Graf-Wellhausen hypotheses which results in leaving very little value to it as far as history is concerned. But to the Christian we believe it is true history and we are interested in knowing about the origin of Israel. We are interested in knowing about the history of the divided kingdom, about its relation with the other kingdoms of the east. This is a true part of our use of the OT^m but it certainly is not its real purpose. The Bible is not primarily a book of history; by that we mean if we want/a complete history, it does not give us the basis on which to do it. Where the Bible speaks of astronomy, or physics, or chemistry or any other science, its statements are true but nobody would think of writing a text book on any one of those fields on the basis of the Bible because it touches on too few aspects of them for that purpose. In relation to history, the same thing is true though to a much lesser extent. The Bible tells us a great deal about Ahab's relation to God, about Ahab's relation to the prophet's of Israel. It tells very little about his relation to the kings of Assyria. When you read the annals of the kings of Assyria you find that Ahab was quite important in the political developments of his time. But those particular developments though very important from a political viewpoint in his days were not particularly important in relation to the purpose of the Bible and were not even mentioned in the OT. You cannot write a complete history of Israel from the OT.