

STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

JONAH

by Dr. Allan A. MacRae,
President, Faith Theological Seminary

It is to be feared that the name, Minor Prophets, has prevented many people from enjoying the treasures of these books. Actually they are minor in nothing but size.

It is harder to dig into these twelve books than into many other portions of the Bible, but it is well worth the effort.

The prophets were men who were actively engaged in presenting God's Word to their contemporaries. In the historical books of the Old Testament we often find evidence of the activity of the prophets, as they brought God's message to the people of their own day. Sometimes God gave them material which was intended not only for the immediate situation, but also for the direction of His people in future years. In such cases He caused them to write it down in inspired books kept free from error by His Holy Spirit. For this reason the Minor Prophets have been of tremendous importance to God's people ever since.

We must not overlook the great importance of the prophetic books for our day; neither may we forget that they were given in the first place for the people of their own day. God led the writers in giving just what the people of that time needed, but also giving what was important for later times.

People sometimes think of a prophet as being simply one who writes history in advance. This is not the case. A prophet is one who speaks God's message. Since God knows all of the future, He very often makes vital references to it, and