

THE HISTORICAL RELIABILITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

An address given by the Rev. Allan A. MacRae, Ph.D., President and Professor of Old Testament, Faith Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, U.S.A., at the European Evangelical Conference, July 23-28, 1959, at Oslo, Norway.

Many Christians do not realize the importance of to-night's subject.

Some individuals, though greatly devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, have taken the attitude that so long as we have Christ we do not need the Bible.

A little thought will show how illogical such a view is. All that we know of Christ comes from the Bible. While it is true that the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, evil spirits also speak to the heart of man, and false impressions may easily be produced by our own sinful ideas and attitudes. In ancient times God spoke directly to the prophets in such a way that they had no question whatever that the message came from Him. He has discontinued this method of giving us knowledge about spiritual facts, because His Word is now complete, and He expects us to get our information from the Bible. We must believe in the Christ of the Bible, or we may find that we have been putting our faith in something that we imagine, rather than in One who is real. If we do not have the Bible of Christ we soon lose the Christ of the Bible.

Occasionally we meet people who say that we need only the New Testament. They point out that the New Testament tells how we can be saved through Christ. In the New Testament we learn about the life of the incarnate God when He walked upon earth and talked with men. They declare, however, that the Old Testament is merely a collection of myths and legends of little importance to the Christian church.

A little reflection will show the error of such an attitude. When we begin to deny the Old Testament, we soon find ourselves denying the New Testament as well. The two are inextricably interrelated. The New Testament is filled with quotations from the Old Testament, and the New Testament writers