

speaks correctly about them. The God of the Bible is also the Creator of the world. His written Word and the Universe that He had made cannot possibly contradict one another.

The same is true in history. The Old Testament is not a book from which we can get a complete history of the universe. Many great events in the history of the universe are not even referred to in it, because it is not necessary that we know them in order to understand the great spiritual truths that God wishes to tell us. It is not even a complete history of Israel. Many important events in the history of Israel are not even mentioned in the Old Testament. His purpose was not to give us an understanding of the details in the lives of Israelite kings, but to show how God dealt with these people in love and in righteousness, and how He prepared the way for the coming of His Son into the world. We cannot get a complete history from the Old Testament, but wherever the Old Testament touches upon history we can be sure that what it says is correct.

The historical reliability of the Old Testament is important for us for two reasons. First, it lies at the very foundation of our faith. Our Christian faith is not based merely upon a mystical relation to Christ. We are saved by simple faith in Christ, and do not need to know much theology to be saved; yet any one who is truly saved will desire to know what Christ's will is for him. Christ's will is given us in the Bible. We learn of Christ in the New Testament and in the Old Testament. If we do not believe the historical statements of the Old Testament we cannot expect properly to understand its spiritual teachings.

In the second place, the historical reliability of the Old Testament is extremely important for the Christian because the very authority of the Lord Jesus Christ is involved in it. In most unmistakable language Jesus set the seal of His approval upon the Old Testament. It is easy to show that Jesus believed that the books of the Old Testament were written by the men by whom they claimed to be written and that