

Hermeneutics properly should be considered as the attempt to *interpret* the Bible so as to get from it the message God has put there for us. The purpose of the Bible is to give us this information that He desires us to have. The Holy Spirit can apply this information to our hearts and can use it as His instrument in helping to develop in us those emotions, feelings and attitudes that He desires us to have, but properly speaking hermeneutics should be an understanding of the information that God gives, information about Himself, about His deeds and about His purposes. This is why we have the Bible, and this is why God preserved it from all error.

When we say that it is without error, this necessarily implies that it is sufficient for the purpose for which God gave it to us. In interpreting it carefully we will not derive from it any idea that is wrong. There may be matters in it that we do not understand. There may be matters that will be tremendously important to us at some other part of our lives, or at some other situation as the world's history develops, but that are more difficult for us to understand in our particular point in time. God will help us to understand these matters as we study the Scripture.

Naturally the Scripture touches on many things that are not its actual purpose. The purpose of the Bible was not to teach us about science, either physical sciences or social sciences. Inevitably the book touches upon these at many points. Wherever it touches upon them it is true, but it does not give enough about any one of them for us to construct a complete system of understanding of that area. This is true even of the matter of the history of the nation of Israel. The Bible gives us a great many facts about the history of Israel, but there are a great many others that it does not give which would be important if we were to try to write a full history of that nation. It ~~deals~~ It gives ~~us~~ the outline, the skeleton for the study of the nation, but its emphasis is on the facts that are important in helping us to understand about God and His will for us.