

without seeing that a very important factor in the work of Elijah was ~~the~~ opposing the prophets of Baal. Of course a very important purpose for the inclusion of the account of the lives of Elijah and Elisha in the Scripture is to give us information about how God hates false religions and wicked worship and how he desires us to oppose them. This is application. Hermeneutics should concern itself with what we learn about God and His purposes from the Scripture. Someone, ~~has said~~ carrying on from this about the prophets of Baal, has raised the question, Is the propose of the first chapter of Genesis to oppose polytheism? I would say definitely not. It is to give us information about God and about how things began and what He did in connection with the creation of the world. We should apply it in opposing polytheism and opposing everything that is contrary to the will of God, but that is not properly part of hermeneutics. It is part of the matter of application of the information we find in Scripture.

As we read the ~~writers of~~ ^T the proponents of the New Hermeneutics, ~~x~~ and many of those who are working in the general field of linguistics and semantics, ^{sometimes} ~~one can almost~~ ^{write in such a way as to make} wonder whether ^{we} you can ever understand anything, ^{written} Yet the fact is that despite all the difficulties, human beings do convey ideas to one another, perhaps not fully, perhaps not always accurately but we do succeed to quite an extent and if we can do this surely the Almighty God can convey to us exactly the ideas He wishes conveyed. ~~I do not~~ ^C I believe ~~collateral~~ information ~~we have~~ learned from science and from archaeology may help us to understand ~~some~~ certain of the physical matters connected with the Bible better than people could have understood them 500 years ago, but I do not believe that any of these collateral studies are necessary for getting the message from the Bible that God has there for us, so I would ~~say~~ ^{that} say none of them are of vital importance for hermeneutics.