

matters do not lie upon the surface. They require careful study. Jesus' strong rebuke to the disciples did not mean that they failed to have the correct attitude toward the Old Testament--that attitude which we have already seen to be so clearly evident in His words. What He rebuked them for was something quite different. It was their failure to study the Old Testament carefully, to learn the meaning of all that the prophets have spoken, to see those vital teachings which lie beneath the surface.

This shows that it is not enough, if one is to be approved of Christ, simply to say, "I believe it all", and to declare that one accepts the entire Old Testament as a revelation from God. This is necessary, but something more is also vital. One must approach the Old Testament exactly as he would approach the facts of geology, botany or astronomy. He must gather his facts, compare them, analyze them, form hypotheses on the basis of the facts, reach his conclusions. As he examines section after section of the Old Testament and fits together this teaching and that, and this emphasis and that, he becomes more and more convinced that the Old Testament looks forward to the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross and to His resurrection in glory. These matters are there, ready to be found by anyone who will approach it with a truly scientific attitude.

The Old Testament then, according to the view of Christ, is not simply a collection of beautiful words, It is said that the great English preacher, George Whitefield, who was so active in the Great Awakening in the Eighteenth Century, had only to utter the word Mesopotamia ^{to} move his audience to tears. It is to be feared that the attitude of some Christians toward the Bible is rather similar. This was not God's purpose in giving us the Bible. It is not merely a series of beautiful words; it is not merely a great Book from which