

the book a second time, he will find his interest in the non-narrative material enhanced, and will gain deeper understanding of the narrative material from it.

Lack of space prevents any attempt in the present commentary to deal exhaustively with the many problems of the book of Numbers. All that can be attempted here is to give the student an understanding of its framework, and to start him on the right path toward acquisition of the rich treasures which it contains.

Critical problems are touched upon where necessary, though the purpose of the commentary is mainly exegetical rather than apologetic. The viewpoint, like that of the commentary as a whole, is that the Scriptures give a true and factual account of God's dealings with His people, kept free from error in the original autographs by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The text of Numbers has been well preserved. While there is the possibility of ~~the/writer/that/the/~~ an occasional error in the transmission of a letter or two, even such small variations as this are quite rare in the text of this particular book.

It is the conviction of the writer that the entire Pentateuch was written by Moses, the man of God. This seems to him to be plainly inferred in the references in the Pentateuch and in the New Testament, and not to be contrary to any proven fact. While it is possible that a sentence might in rare instances have been interpolated at a later time by someone who was himself inspired by the Holy Spirit in what he wrote, the writer knows of no passage in the Pentateuch where he considers such a conclusion to be necessary.