

law that you never could eat meat with the blood still in it.

The reference to Saul is in I Samuel, in connection with one of his early battles. I imagine that most of you remember the story. At least I hope you know enough of Old Testament history to recognize it. The word *zabach* does not always mean “sacrifice.” We read in I Kings that Adonijah went out with some friends who were going to make Adonijah king while David was still living, though very weak. They took Adonijah out and sacrificed oxen, sheep and everything. But it does not mean sacrifice; it means that they had a big barbecue feast. They took the animals out with them and they killed them there. We can be sure that they killed them in the proper way, letting the blood flow out. Yet this was not a sacrifice; it was a feast, and it does not mean sacrifice at all. Other similar cases certainly do not prove anything about the law. Many are actions of men who were not models in any sense, such as Micaiah and his image. There are actions of Saul for which he was rebuked. There are various actions which we cannot take as proving whether the law was in existence. There are also some cases of commands of God given under various exceptional circumstances, such as, in Judges, in the time when they were subject to their enemies and the angel of God came and told them to make a sacrifice. Then there is the event at the threshing floor, where God stopped the pestilence and David purchased the threshing floor and made a sacrifice. That was not a place designated specifically to be the place of sacrifice, though it may very well be the place where Solomon built the temple later on. Yet, after removal of all of these, there are some real difficulties, especially in connection with Samuel, Solomon, and the attitude of the righteous kings and prophets.

2) *Central worship.* All these are great difficulties for those who accept the critical theory that there is a hard and fast law in Deuteronomy that it is utterly wrong to sacrifice anywhere except in the place which God has designated as the one place out of all the tribes. Yet, if you take Deuteronomy as it stands, with only one chapter dealing with it, and even that chapter presenting it as something to be done after the Lord gives them peace from their enemies, and with an exception right in the book of Deuteronomy