

Now our course this semester is entitled Introduction as to the Old Testament, that is a subject which to the person without Theological training doesn't mean a great deal. The word introduction is used theologically with a rather special connotation. It doesn't just mean here it is, look at it. It is to find out whether it is genuine. Introduction is not the study of the book itself but it is the study of that which is necessary to know about the book as you take it up. There is what we call General Intro. and Special Intro. Special Intro. would be taking up one particular book and to examine it to find out whether or not it is dependable--whether or not it is authentic or not, its author. Gen. Intro. is dealing with the whole O.T.

I. Preliminary Considerations

A. The Scope of the Books--we are interested in knowing what we have here, where did it come from. We are interested primarily with the origin and the nature of the book. It is helpful if we do know something of the content and determining its truth and dependability --is this book one of cleverly devised fables and interesting ideas that some people have worked up? What is the O.T. What do we propose to cover? We believe that this book is a Revelation from God; is it ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a dictated form of literature which God has given us. Take up the doctrine of Inspiration which is distinct from Revelation. All of it is inspired but not all of it is given by revelation. What does the O.T. claim for itself and what does the N.T. claim about the O.T. Then we take up the question of the Canon. How do we know that these are the right books to be included in the Canon? ILL. of the fellow at his college that went down to take some extra work at BIOLA, and who was told by the College President that he would close his mind if he kept going down there to study theology. Many students even this summer asked me how do we know if the council voted right to get a certain book in, but what if some just got in by slim vote, how do we know they were right. Naturally they were never put in by some council. ILL. of an advertisement that was in LIFE magazine and the letter that Dr. Trumbull wrote that there was no evidence of there being any lost books. None of the books that are claimed to be lost ever were seriously disputed as to whether they belonged in the Bible anyway. The R. C., which we call the Apocrypha--what is the real truth about this. There is not one point hardly on which we differ that the ~~Evangelists~~ R.C. cannot be proved wrong through their own writings, that the present attitude of the church is wrong yet few of us know that.