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## THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

It is a real pleasure to be with you today and to see something of the fine work <sup>at first hand</sup> ~~in your~~ <sup>of Dallas</sup> Seminary. I appreciate Dr. Chafer's kind words of introduction more than I can say. I have followed his activities for many years and have often thanked God for <sup>Dr. Chafer's</sup> his splendid testimony to His holy Word and for the way in which our Lord has blessed in the upbuilding of Dallas Seminary.

The subject for my series of lectures is entitled, "The Scientific Approach to the Old Testament." Unbelievers often assume that Christianity is unscientific and that somehow religious thought moves in a different realm from that of facts and evidence. Actually, however, the contrary is true. There is nothing more scientific than the Christian attitude toward the Bible. Truly Christian study of God's Word uses exactly the same principles as scientific progress in any realm of thought. The truly Christian approach to the Old Testament is entirely scientific.

There have been many attitudes taken toward the Old Testament. The famous Lawrence of Arabia, a man who led the guerilla warfare in World War I against the Turks in Arabia, later <sup>buried</sup> on his <sup>own</sup> himself in an English army camp in India. <sup>4</sup> ~~And~~ a friend <sup>(3) (1) (2)</sup> there describing his life <sup>(5)</sup> told of <sup>the</sup> a book which Lawrence had on his shelf. Among these books were six or eight which were his favorites. One of them was the Old Testament. Yet Lawrence ~~believed nothing of the supernatural~~ had no faith in Christianity, ~~whatever~~. The Old Testament to him was a book of interesting stories--a book which he loved to pore over. But that was all.

There are others to whom the Old Testament is one of the greatest literary treasures of the world--a book of supreme literary values, but that is all.