

THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT - II

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"Then said he unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:25-26).

As he hears these verses the intelligent listener feels compelled to stop and ponder: Why did Jesus scold the disciples in this way? What was the reason for ~~his~~ criticism of them? Did ~~He~~ suspect that they did not consider the Old Testament to be a revelation from God? It would be strange indeed if this were the case. There was no critical school at that time to suggest that the Old Testament was a patchwork of interwoven sources, written at various times and often contradicting one another. The evidence is plain that the overwhelming mass of Jews in the day of Christ accepted the Old Testament in its entirety as a revelation from God.

Why then, did Jesus scold the disciples? Did He suspect them of holding a modern pseudo-scientific view that we know nothing except what we actually observe or discover by means of our own study, so that revelation is not a dependable source of knowledge? Was it necessary to convince them that science itself constantly depends on communication from one personality to another, and thus that revelation is an essential part of the progress of science? Such questions were quite foreign to their minds. These problems had not yet arisen in the consciousness of the First Century, A.D.

Many a person has read through the Old Testament without gaining from it any clear understanding that Christ would die on Calvary's Cross and would be raised from the dead on the third day. These