

This book is lovingly dedicated
to
all students of the Bible
who are earnestly endeavoring to hear the Word
that shines through the words



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Preface

This is a book you need if you are a student of the Bible. No matter how well you may know your Bible, it offers many new and progressive avenues of thought and inspiration. And it is a book you need if you are not already a student; it provides challenges that can make you want to be one.

This is many things in one: a study book, a history, a reference book, and an enlightening experience. It ties the sixty-six books of the Bible into one complete whole so that you see the continuity of history, God's unbreakable and inviolable covenant, and the development of the divine plan and purpose for man's salvation through His Messiah.

The subject matter is presented in a manner that can make you more aware than ever before of every portion of your Bible. At the same time it fosters spiritualization of thought, encouraging you to carry its history forward into the present in order to appropriate its spiritual value and find parallels in your own life.

This book also offers many tools: clear and concise text, and *visualization* by chart whereby Scriptural subjects have been stripped to their essence for fresh inspiration. It abounds in *correlation*, cross-reference study in action; ideas presented in various sections of the Bible can either be traced through to their fuller unfolding record or united with their actual Biblical fulfillment. A chapter on *appropriation* gives concrete examples of how to translate events and terms into practical application.

The approach is unique and individual: it seeks at every point to carry you not only forward in your Bible reading and study but upward and outward to a richer appreciation and comprehension of your Bible's treasures.

The author has taught a nondenominational Bible course to adult groups throughout the United States for more than thirty-five years, and this volume is the outgrowth of those years of teaching and research. This is not merely a book *about* the Bible, it is a study of the Bible *itself*. The King James Version has been used as

its basis; quotations have been liberal and deliberate to challenge the reader to hear the Word behind the words.

Acknowledgement with much gratitude and appreciation is made to: my editors, Ruth Chapman, who also designed the book, and H. L. Kirk; my secretary, Sylvia B. Miller; James D. Norris, who so ably realized in type the author's chart patterns; and to those friends who, knowing about the work, gave encouragement as it progressed.

B.M.S.

A Note on Dates

Early Biblical history is shrouded in the sometimes confusing mist of the distant past and it is therefore not possible to give exact dates. What scholars cited with assurance a generation ago as the precise timing of an event has frequently required revision in the light of archaeological discovery and other investigation. Uncertainty as to precisely when an event took place or when a minor prophet was born or died is however perhaps of less immediate consequence than the fact that a certain event did transpire or that the prophet lived, spoke, or wrote.

The author has used a generally accepted range of dates; where there is wide disagreement in sound scholarship about matters of placement in time, that fact has been noted. Biblical dates will undoubtedly continue to be subject to revision as new discoveries come to verify the kernel of truth underlying the record as it has come down to us.

Abbreviations

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Gen., *Genesis*
Ex., *Exodus*
Lev., *Leviticus*
Num., *Numbers*
Deut., *Deuteronomy*
Josh., *Joshua*
Ju., *Judges*
Ru., *Ruth*
I Sam., *I Samuel*
II Sam., *II Samuel*
I Ki., *I Kings*
II Ki., *II Kings*
I Chron., *I Chronicles*

II Chron., *II Chronicles*
Ezra, *Ezra*
Neh., *Nehemiah*
Es., *Esther*
Job, *Job*
Ps., *Psalms*
Pr., *Proverbs*
Ec., *Ecclesiastes*
Song., *Song of Solomon*
Is., *Isaiah*
Jer., *Jeremiah*
La., *Lamentations*
Ezek., *Ezekiel*

Dan., *Daniel*
Hos., *Hosea*
Joel, *Joel*
Amos, *Amos*
Ob., *Obadiah*
Jon., *Jonah*
Mic., *Micah*
Na., *Nahum*
Hab., *Habakkuk*
Zeph., *Zephaniah*
Hag., *Haggai*
Zech., *Zechariah*
Mal., *Malachi*

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mt., *Matthew*
Mk., *Mark*
Lu., *Luke*
Jn., *John*
Acts, *Acts*
Rom., *Romans*
I Cor., *I Corinthians*
II Cor., *II Corinthians*
Gal., *Galatians*

Eph., *Ephesians*
Phil., *Philippians*
Col., *Colossians*
I Th., *I Thessalonians*
II Th., *II Thessalonians*
I Tim., *I Timothy*
II Tim., *II Timothy*
Tit., *Titus*
Philem., *Philemon*

Heb., *Hebrews*
Ja., *James*
I Pet., *I Peter*
II Pet., *II Peter*
I Jn., *I John*
II Jn., *II John*
III Jn., *III John*
Jude, *Jude*
Rev., *Revelation*

AV = Authorized Version (King James)
ASV = American Standard Version

LXX = Septuagint
Macc. = Maccabees

RV = Revised Version
RV (marg.) = margin of RV

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