

HOPE AND PROMISE UNVEILED IN THE PROPHETS

Luke 24:36-49

If they had given the prophets of the Old Testament their due weight and consideration, they would have been as sure of Christ's rising from the dead that morning (being the third day after his death) as they were of the rising of the sun; for the series and succession of events as settled by prophecy are no less certain and inviolable than as settled by providence. Were we but more conversant with the scripture, and the divine counsels as far as they are made known in the scripture, we should not be subject to such perplexities as we often entangle ourselves in.... The design of opening the understanding is that we may understand the scriptures; not that we may be wise above what is written, but that we may be wiser in what is written, and may be made wise to salvation by it. The Spirit in the word and the Spirit in the heart say the same thing. Christ's scholars never learn above their bibles in this world; but they need to be learning still more and more out of their bibles, and to grow more ready and mighty in the scriptures. That we may have right thoughts of Christ, and have our mistakes concerning him rectified, there needs no more than to be made to understand the scriptures.

Matthew Henry

- I. **PROCLAMATION, NOT PUZZLES (36-44):** The Prophets intended to be understood. They didn't bring riddles. They didn't bring puzzles. They proclaimed the very words of God to the people of God.

- II. **PROMISE, NOT PREDICTION (45-47):** The Prophets can't be reduced to predictions. They announce the very promises of God.

- III. **POWER, NOT PROFICIENCY (48-49):** Christ does not intend for us merely to be proficient at understanding the prophets; He wants us to know personally the deep and abiding power they hold.