

volume, to distinguish clearly between what God's Spirit records as having taken place and what God approves. Deeds of deepest turpitude performed by men and by the devil and his angels find a place, but no approval, in Scripture records. What Jews and Christians thought and practiced is one thing, and what God commanded and sanctioned is another thing. The former is not our rule of faith and conduct, but the latter the word of the Lord, we are bound to accept. The drunkenness of Noah, the polytheistic tendencies of Israel, the sins of David, and the apostacy of Peter are recorded, but not approved or set forth for our imitation. They are rather flaming beacons set up by the Holy Spirit to show us dangers to be shunned.

Finally, it is of no practical consequence to us whether Old Testament

saints understood as clearly as we do the doctrine of the personality and divinity of the Holy Ghost. The great matter is that we know that the Spirit of Christ was in those of them who were chosen, from time to time, to make Biblical records; and that he "testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow." We know, too, that "God having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by diverse portions and in diverse manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son." Therefore we have the firm confidence that in accepting the Bible and preaching the gospel we do not follow "cunningly devised fables," but deliver to the world a message which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

