

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETING THE PROPHECIES

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Principles of Interpreting the Prophecies by Henry Jones

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HENRY JONES

**PRINCIPLES OF
INTERPRETING
THE PROPHECIES**

PRINCIPLES

OF

INTERPRETING THE PROPHECIES;

Briefly Illustrated and Applied

WITH NOTES.

BY HENRY JONES.

"When for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again, which be the first principles of the oracles of God.—HEB. 5: 12.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Of Clergymen in the City of New-York.

4-27-32 RMB

From a cursory examination of the Principles of prophetic interpretation, and the Illustration of these Principles in their application to various leading prophecies, contained in a little work prepared by the Rev. Mr. Jones, I am disposed to believe, that the publication of the work will be useful as a means of instruction and edification. It is a little work, terse, full of thought, and free from all needless verbiage.

JOHN KNOX,

Pastor of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church.
New-York, August 31, 1837.

Having seen a brief outline of the work on prophetic interpretation, to be published by the Rev. Mr. Jones, I concur in the above opinion expressed by Rev. Dr. Knox in its recommendation. While unable to judge of all the principles contained in it, in the reading of a condensed sketch, I hesitate not to believe that its publication will be useful.

THOMAS DE WITT,

Pastor of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church.
New-York, August 31, 1837.

I have examined "the twenty-four Principles" laid down by the Rev. Mr. Jones, in his manuscript for the Illustration of Scriptural Prophecies. They appear to me reasonable, just, and scriptural.

But they embrace subjects of the deepest research which come up before the mind of the Bible student. They are, therefore, not to be recommended suddenly, or upon a cursory examination; nor to be lightly set aside. It would require years of profound research in the application of these Principles to the various prophecies of the Holy Bible, fully to test their truth and establish their usefulness.

While, therefore, I cannot, of course, approve every thing in them, and determine the result of their efficient application to the evolving of Scripture Prophecy, I would earnestly recommend this little book to all my Christian friends, as an admirable manual to excite to the close and careful study of the prophetic parts of God's Holy Word. The intense labor and study which this little work must have cost its author, ought by no means to be lost to the Christian public.

W. C. BROWNLEE,

Pastor of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church.
New-York, August 31, 1837.

In the above recommendation I cordially acquiesce.

ARCHIBALD MACLAY,

Pastor Baptist Church, Mulberry-street.
New-York, September 1, 1837.

Having listened to the reading of the Principles above referred to, with a brief explanation from the author, I concur in the above recommendation by the Rev. Dr. Brownlee.

ABSALOM PETERS,

Corresponding Secretary of the A. H. M. S.
New-York, September 2, 1837.

I very cheerfully unite in the above recommendation.

J. McELROY,

Pastor Scotch Presbyterian Church, Grand-street.
New-York, September 2, 1837.

Having partially examined the Principles laid down for the

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Illustration of Scripture Prophecies, referred to in the above recommendations, I cheerfully recommend the work to the notice of the Christian community.

C. W. CARPENTER,

Pastor of Greene-street M. E. Church.

New-York, September 4, 1837.

I fully approve of the above, and cheerfully join in the same recommendations of the work to the Christian public.

JOSEPH HARRISON,

Pastor Congregational Church, Thompson-street.

New-York, September 4, 1837.

I cheerfully concur in the opinions above expressed in reference to this work, including the qualifications of Dr. Brownlee.

CHARLES K. TRUE,

Pastor of the M. E. Church, John-street.

New-York, September 5, 1837.

Having examined the work of Rev. Mr. Jones on the Interpretation of the Prophecies, as it has been passing through the press, I do not hesitate to subscribe to its recommendation as given above by the Rev. Dr. Brownlee.

JONATHAN GREENLEAF.

Cor. Sec. of the Am. Sea. Fr. Soc

New-York, November 20, 1837.

Every attempt to ascertain the Principles which ought to govern the interpretation of the Prophetic Writings, merits encouragement. On this account the subscriber hopes that the work of the Rev. Mr. Jones on the subject, may be published and extensively circulated.

ALONZO POTTER,

Professor of Moral Philosophy Union College,

[Clergyman of the Episcopal Church.]

Schenectady, September 6, 1837.

I hereby certify, that having read the Principles, Illustrations and Proofs of the following work, as far as enabled from once reading them, I am prepared to give them my unqualified approval as being just, reasonable and scriptural.

ELISHA WHEELER,

Pastor of the M. E. Church.

Lowville, October 2, 1837.

Having once hastily perused the following work of Mr. Jones, I am prepared to say, that whether every part of it will bear the test of rigid scrutiny or not, he has bestowed unwearyed labor on the important subject of which it treats, and exhibited no small degree of ingenuity. I think it worthy of the attention of such persons as study and labor after a full and perfect understanding of the Sacred Scriptures.

ISAAC CLINTON, Presbyterian Minister.

Lowville, October 17, 1837.

I have been favored with an opportunity of forming an opinion of the *Principles of Interpretation*, as contained in a manuscript of Mr. Jones; and so far as I have been enabled to decide in relation to the merits of it from a discourse on the same subject delivered to the people of my charge on the Sabbath, and a single reading during his stay with me, I feel at liberty to give my approbation of the work, and believe it to be well calculated to aid in the reading and understanding of the Holy Scriptures.

PAUL WEIDMAN,

Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at
Manheim, Herkimer county.

N. B. Forty or more other clergymen of different denominations in country towns, have given written recommendations of the above work, so far as to encourage its being published and examined by the Christian community, while a far greater number have done the same orally.

INTRODUCTION.

THE object of the following work is not to discuss in general, the Principles of Biblical Interpretation; but rather to present briefly and simply some important and leading facts, as, "*First Principles of the Oracles of God*," with special reference to the study of the HOLY PROPHECIES; and in some degree to assist in the more full examination of the Scriptures. These "*First Principles*," it is believed, have heretofore been, and are still too much overlooked in the study of the Prophecies, while in the improper use of much human learning, the mind has probably been led to soar above the benevolent condescension of the Almighty in his making the way of life so plain that babes in Christ shall understand it, and "wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

It is a fact too painfully known to admit dispute, that for some cause, the Prophetical Writings of both the Old and New Testaments, are at present comparatively but little read and less understood; while their quickness and power, as means of grace, are but little experienced by a vast proportion even of hopeful Christians. Since it is, therefore, thus apparent, that the Prophecies have so far lost their original converting and sanctifying power, it must be considered altogether suitable for the friends of God and the Bible, to inquire into, and, if possible, search out the true cause why these things are so, and to devise some effectual remedy against the evil.

From a diligent and somewhat protracted research into these matters, it has appeared that the leading cause of the present inefficacy of the Prophecies, as intended means of grace, is the want of their being better understood, appearing,
