

1. The Bible is the working out of God's plan for man's redemption.
 1. Gen. 3:15 contains the primal messianic prophecy.
 2. The remainder of scripture is the history of God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ.
 3. It is the first work of Paradise Lost (Garden of Eden) and Paradise Regained (the church and the Paradise of God).

2. Preparatory History.
 1. Adam to Noah.
 2. Noah to Abraham.
 3. Abraham to Moses.
 4. Moses to Elijah.

3. With the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, the establishment of Baal-worship as the state religion, and the attempted extermination of the prophets and followers of Jehovah, the apostasy of Israel reached its high point.
 1. As if to mark Israel's general disregard of the threatened judgment of God and the coming vindication of Jehovah's kingship, Scripture here inserts a notice of the daring rebuilding of the walls of Jericho and of the literal fulfillment of Joshua's curse upon its builder (1 Ki. 16:34; comp. Josh. 6:26).
 2. The land was now ripe for the sickle of God's judgment.
 3. Yet as much as Scripture tells about Elijah, we may have only outlines of his prophetic greatness before us.
 4. Elijah's first appearance, in its manner and suddenness, was emblematic of all that was to follow.
 5. The life and times of Elijah cannot be fully appreciated without an understanding of the miraculous in Scripture.