



PREFACE

This is the second volume in the *Made Simple* series. It is recommended that the student first study the volume entitled, *Bible History Made Simple*. Once you have learned the time line for biblical history, the major characters and events, then you are ready to take a closer look at the individual books of the Bible.

The structure of the chapters in this book is derived from the account of the call of Samuel. The Lord called to Samuel three times in the night. Each time the boy thought that it was Eli who was calling. Finally the old priest realized that it must be the Lord who was calling to Samuel in the night. Eli instructed Samuel to respond to the next call with these words: *Speak, LORD, for your servant hears* (1 Samuel 3:9).

Eli's advice to Samuel is appropriate for all students of God's word. As we approach the pages of the holy book we need to be asking God to speak to us. He speaks to us through his word. We, on our part, must be ready to hear what he has to say.

The letters of the word SPEAKS are used to outline the discussion of each Old Testament book. **S** = Situation—the background of the book is set forth. **P** = Plan—book organization is discussed. **E** = Eternal Purpose—the immediate and ultimate purposes for each book are set forth. **A** = Anticipation—how the book anticipates the coming of Christ. **K** = Keys—the key chapter,

verse, phrases, and words in the book are identified. **S** = Special Features—a list of oddities, peculiarities, or facts that point to the uniqueness of each book.

God *SPEAKS* in his word. We must *HEAR*. The discussion of each book has a section entitled HEAR. This section contains a sampling of the outstanding chapters and verses in each book. Serious students will want to read at least the key chapter for each book, and the outstanding chapters when they are identified.

I have utilized the King James Version (modernized) throughout unless otherwise indicated.

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