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by ~~William A. ...~~ *The Principle of Interpretation Gen. 1 & 2*
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I have ~~been~~ asked to discuss principles ~~which~~ govern our interpretation of the first two chapters of Genesis. The first of these I would like to state as follows: ~~These chapters are a portion of God's Word.~~

When we take up something ~~which~~ we are sure is God's Word we must have a very different attitude toward it than we would toward something that is merely the word of ^a man. ~~What~~ a man writes ~~something it~~ may be true or ~~it may be~~ false, depending upon the integrity of the man and also on his opportunity of having correct knowledge of the facts with which he deals. ~~None of the men intentionally deceive;~~ ^{Some} others very sincerely lead us astray, ~~in all sincerity~~ since they themselves are mistaken.

When we examine ~~something~~ ^{a writing} that we know to be a part of God's Word there ~~is~~ ^{can be} no question as to the integrity of the author, nor as to his complete knowledge of everything with which he deals. ~~We should approach it reverently,~~ ^{and} ~~humbly,~~ ^{Someone who} ~~coming to that~~ ^{is approaching that} which is absolute truth, while we

② ourselves are finite. It is not complete truth because it is brief, it only gives a section of God's truth, but everything that can reasonably and properly be ^{gathered} learned from it we must humbly accept belief. We ~~must~~ ^{cannot} handle the Word of God lightly.

This, ~~of course,~~ does not mean there may not be problems in dealing with the Word of God. When the finite mind attempts to explain that which has come from the infinite, ~~naturally~~ there will be depths ~~he~~ will be unable to penetrate, ^{and} there may even seem to be contradictions which we cannot solve, which ~~he is not~~ yet ~~unprepared~~ to solve. In such a case ~~we must~~ ^{he} we should face the problem promptly and openly. ~~If we cannot explain something we should promptly say so and hold the matter in abeyance until God chooses to give us light from other portions of His Word as to the correct explanation of the problems that face us.~~ ^{answer.} ~~the problems that face us.~~