

Shakespeare represents the best of human inspiration and the Bible of divine inspiration. This is an unfortunate confusion of thought. Shakespeare shows a marvelous understanding of human nature and expresses his ideas in extremely beautiful poetry. But there is no claim made for him by anyone that his writings have been kept from error. Nothing at all similar to the inspiration of the Scriptures is claimed for Shakespeare. It is important of course that we recognize that inspiration refers to the original manuscripts of the Scriptures. Christians have believed through the ages that these books were kept from error as originally written. Our present manuscripts are of course not free from error for little mistakes have crept in at various points in the process of copying and recopying the manuscripts. However, careful examination shows clearly that God has providentially overseen the transmission of these books so that the numbers of errors in them is extremely small and this is easily demonstrated by comparing the proper names in the Hebrew Old Testament with those found on monuments put up by kings who were named in it. The accuracy of the preservation is hard to parallel anywhere else. If one wishes to realize its remarkable character let him simply study the proper names of the Greek Translation of the Old Testament and see how very many errors of spelling have come into them in process of transmission. God's providential care over the preservation of the Scriptures shows to us a book which today has remarkably few errors in it. The original manuscripts being inspired of God were absolutely free from error.

It is important that we distinguish carefully between these two aspects of the Scriptures, its verbal inspiration and the fact that it contains actual revelation from God to the writers. Sometimes this idea of revelation sounds strange and mysterious. Actually however, it is one of the commonest aspects of our daily life. God does not now reveal Himself directly to us since He has spoken in His Word and given us in it a revelation sufficient for all of our needs. Most of the information however which we secure from other human beings we learn through receiving a revelation from them. Revelation is merely the communication of ideas from one personality to another and without it we would know practically nothing about each other or about the world in which we live. To anyone who believes in a personal God