

as part of His inspired Word. So inspiration relates to these books and these are the only books to which that term in the theological sense can possibly be applied.

Now some people get very excited about the foolish ideas they consider that the Bible was dictated. They say, How terrible that somebody thinks the Bible was dictated! They say of course it was not dictated. Well, I think that attitude is foolish. I don't see why God could not have dictated if He chose to do so. I don't think He chose to do so, but I don't see why He could not have so chosen. I can dictate a letter to a secretary. There's no reason why God could not have dictated the Bible if He chose. Certain parts of the Bible are dictated, where God said, and then it gives the specific message. The ten commandments were spoken and heard by everyone. Certain parts of the Bible are dictated. But most of it we do not believe was given by dictation. We believe that inspiration was a far more complicated complex work than that. We believe that God trained people for the task, He selected them before they were born. He told Jeremiah that before he was even born God selected him for a particular work for God. He selected the men whom he was going to use to write parts of the Bible, to give God's message to all subsequent ages. He selected the men. He saw that these men got the training he wanted them to have. He saw that they saw the particular events He wanted them to see, that they had the contacts he wanted them to have, that he gave them the particular thinking he wanted them to have, that he led them to have an understanding of the truth, and that he produced a situation that caused them to write like Paul wrote many of his epistles in response to particular situations that needed His . But God caused that those situations that would relate to the needs of His people of all future ages, that for those what they wrote would be inspired, kept free from error. Then God caused the writers to write, ~~not~~ using their own brains, using their own vocabulary, using their own ability and yet He kept them from error.

The (writer) may not have known whether there were three men that came to the home or ten came from Cornelius to Peter, but there were at least three. He could have said there were some men here, and it would have been just as true as to say there are three men. And three men is just as true as five would be if there were five, because if there were five there certainly were three. It is true whatever can be properly derived from it but the additional questions we might ask -- and we could ask 1000 questions about almost any sentence most anyone could say -- these extra questions we should not draw conclusions from. We have such a tendency to take a word and just try to squeeze and squeeze it and get all we can out of it, but language is not that way. God wants us to compare Scripture with Scripture and get what is the teaching of the book as a whole not to put too much on one verse.

Now of course it is a great cause of sorrow on the part of Christians that the KJV is archaic because it was so fine for memorization when the whole Christian world used one version and we all memorized that. We lose that when we have a lot of translations into present day languages. We lose something and it would be important if we all had a version we all memorized. But on the other hand I think we gain something from it. Because it makes us realize