

have deteriorated in our world in recent years in many ways. The evidence of fulfilled prophecy is an evidence of the reliability of the sources.

Now a second test of the revelation is the directness. That is to say we have a revelation from God that he gave to the prophets of old, that he gave to Moses in the first 5 books of the OT. God gave to various prophets the various other books of the OT. God gave to apostles and others the books of the NT. But do we have those books today? How direct is the message?

When somebody tells me something that is a little out of the ordinary I always ask who told you this, where did you hear it? If I find that somebody tells me something that somebody told them that they had heard from ~~somebody~~ somebody else, I would pass it on to another person and make five stages in it because I know that in one stage of almost any revelation that we make from one to another a good bit of it is confused. And the time you go through 5 stages it is apt to be the exact opposite of what it was when it first started. How directly has the revelation come to us? Writings get distorted. There was an account written of the conquest of Alexander the Great by Calisthenes. Some say this was not really Calisthenes, but it was written by another writer at the time who called him (self) Calisthenes. Whatever the fact is, this book was written by someone who was with Alexander the Great on his travels to the East in his conquests. This book was written in Greek and translated into Syriac. We have today copies of copies of copies of copies of the original Greek, and copies of copies of copies of copies of the original Syriac. And you can't copy ~~of~~ a long book without making some errors in copying. In this case, it has a list of 12 companions of Alexander the Great, and in the lists in the Greek and Syriac we cannot ~~prove~~ prove that anyone of the names in the Greek ~~corresponds~~ corresponds with any of the names in Syriac! These names have become confused in the course of copying. It is very easy to get names confused, particularly foreign names.

I never realized that quite so fully until I went to the University of Berlin. They have a wonderful custom there -- when you enter the University, they give you a diploma at once! So you're sure of getting it. I didn't stay long enough to get another one. I got the one anyway. So that fall shortly after I had matriculated at the University we were told the diplomas were to be given to the foreign students at once. In all there were about 200 of us from just about every country of the world. The director of the University came in with his golden chain around his neck and gave us a very nice talk on how privileged we were to be studying in the U. of Berlin. Then he walked out. A clerk came in and called our names so we could go forward and get our diplomas that we were matriculated students. As far as I could tell, the people with Arabic names and Russian names and Scottish names, and Spanish names had no difficulty. But when he got to the American names he just couldn't seem to handle them. When he called for Blakely, Woodbridge thought he said Woodbridge. That's hard for you to recognize but the name we'd write Woodbridge he'd say something like Woodbridgen which did sound a bit like Blakeley.