

Now we should have a word of caution here. It is direct, but we must remember that God has different purposes. God, through the prophets, gave all sorts of messages, to the people. Many of them dealing with situations immediately in their day. The prophets gave many messages that God did not intend to have in his Word and were not preserved in His Word. But ~~caused~~ God caused that there should be preserved in the Bible those messages that He ~~desired~~ desired to be useful to His people in later days. Therefore all of the Bible is of interest and value for all people at all times, but there is much of it that has very special relevance to a particular time. It may not have so much relevance to other times. Therefore we may find it hard to understand certain passages in Scripture, but if the Lord carries them they may be very clear and easy to understand 25 or 50 yrs. from now.

He gave His word so as to meet the needs of his people at all the various situations thro the yrs. that would follow. Under those circumstances it is quite reasonable and natural to expect that there would be that which would be difficult to understand at certain times. But He has caused that which He desires to be preserved for His people to be accurately kept and much of it is exactly what we need today. Some of it is exactly what people needed 100 or 200 years ago and would be more difficult for us to understand today but still have value and meaning for us. And some of it will be of special value to people 100 yrs. from now if the Lord carries. But it still has real purpose and meaning for us today.

There are those two points in the revelation that we must test the reliability of the source, and we must test the directness, but also we must have ability to understand the language in which it is given. This is something we cannot expect to have completely. Nobody can know any language completely. Language and words may vary in their meaning. I never felt quite so in my life as I did in England. The reason was that in other countries I would ~~figure~~ figure that everything was different and I had to learn the words. But in England they spoke the same language, so I thought I'd understand everything, and I found I couldn't. I got off the train at Oxford and I had about 16 suitcases, and I wanted to go into town and buy a hotel (room) I could afford to stay at. I wanted to leave my stuff. I put my things together on the platform where I could see them and walked up and down the platform until about everybody had left. Up here were titles on doors, like booking office, or telephone, or cloak room -- names that did not mean anything to me in my situation. I looked back and forth and there was nobody around and I thought, What shall I do with these suitcases? Then I saw a man and I said, Could you tell me, I want to go into town for a little, and then come back again for my cases. Could you tell me where I could leave the cases? Of course, he said, in the cloak room! It never occurred to me you'd put them in the cloak room; I looked for a parcel check! I imagine if I'd said parcel check he'd thought I was talking Sinese for it would have meant nothing to him. After I'd been there a little I went for a visit to a friend and went to the station. He said, Go to Victoria station and get a ticket out to Chine. I said I would like a round trip ticket to Chine. He said, Single? I thought sure I'm not married yet, I thought single applied, so he handed me a one-way ticket. If I wanted a round trip ticket I should have said Return. Round trip to him was jibberish. In any language words change their