

Jesus said he could pray to his Father and he would send legions of angels to protect him. God could make all the instruments of that kind He might choose, but that was not God's purpose. God purposed to make individual spirits, spirits that had the power of choice, the power of thought. A spirit that would love him because he wished to do so, that would love Him because they were grateful for what ~~they~~ He had done for them. Not simply automatons or thoughtless instruments of carrying out His commands.

It is for this reason He created individuals who while capable of loving and serving Him were also capable of disregarding His commands and sinning as Adam did and brought misery upon all of us who have consented. So it is very important that we recognize God's purpose is not simply to produce instruments that turn right or left as you move them, but human beings, immortal spirits who would love him and serve Him.

A second very important reason why God did not continue to reveal His will as He did in the OT and NT time is the fact that it is very difficult for us to tell to whom God has revealed a truth. It is very difficult for us to tell whether someone is speaking truly when he says that God told him this or that. There are many fine Christians within the last century who have told us exactly who the antichrist is! So far every one of their predictions has been proven false. If they keep on making predictions I believe eventually one of them will probably come true!

We are not in a position to judge who is God's true prophet. We have to say that in the OT and NT times God providentially worked in ways we do not fully understand in order that it should be recognized ~~that~~ who the true prophets were. And that God then worked in ways we do not understand in order to bring it about that the people of God would recognize the books that truly were revelations of God's will for us.

So we find that at least 400 yrs. before the time of Christ all the people of God to whom the OT was given, that is to say Israel, all of them agreed that a certain group of 39 books were books that had been inspired of God in order to give God's truth and that ~~they~~ could be depended upon. So during those 400 years these people had these books to study but they no longer had prophets to speak to them from God. And we find that in the book of Maccabees which is generally recognized as not a part of the Bible, not inspired, as being nevertheless quite a dependable ~~and~~ historical account.

That when the Jews reconquered Jerusalem and took over the temple that had been defiled by the Syrians putting a statue of Jupiter in there and offering pig's flesh on it as a sacrifice to Jerusalem(?) they took that altar and said, What shall we do with it? It has been defiled, and yet it was truly God's altar.