

I think inspiration is a matter of words, not a matter of ideas. But I think the vital thing in Scripture is the ideas that God has put into words, and if a change in a word in going to affect an idea, and if that change occurs in enough places to vitally affect the idea, I think we can depend upon it that that will not happen. That the ideas that are expressed in the Scripture will stand whether they are ideas of religion, ideas of science, ideas of history, whatever they are. That which we can properly draw from the Scripture will stand until all is fulfilled.

Incidentally that word fulfilled is a word which is an English word. It is not a Greek word. In Greek the word pleroo which is translated fulfill is used in quite a number of different ways. It really means to fill up. So a fulfillment may be that God predicted something will happen and it happened. That's a fulfillment. But the apostle says "fulfill my joy." He says their iniquities are fulfilled. The word is a general word which we have specialized into the fulfillment of prophecy. Now the prophecies will be fulfilled, but every time the word is used it does not mean the specific fulfillment of a particular thing.

So the fact is that as the Scripture has come down to us there are errors in it, but they are recognizable errors. I think we want to recognize that, that there are recognizable errors. I think there are people who would question that so I'm going to take the time to point to two or three recognizable errors in the Scripture.

The first of those I would mention is in 1 Sam. 13. The KJV begins the ch. thus: Saul reigned one year, and when he had reigned two years something or other happened. A very awkward way to express it. I don't think the translators of the KJV thought that was what it meant. Because exactly the same phrase occurs a dozen times later on. Exactly the same phrase, not about Saul but about someone else and it says that so-and-so was the son of so many years (which means 0 ) he was the son of so many years in his reigning--by which they mean when he became king. and he reigned so many years. And what the Bible as we have it today actually says is that Saul was one year old when he became king and he reigned over Israel 2 years. That's what it says. But I don't believe anybody believes that is the facts.

It's my opinion that at a very early day one of the very early copies of this book got the side of the page torn off. And where it says he was the son of so many years, that the so many got torn off. At the end of the next line "and he reigned 2 and so many years in Jerusalem". The so many in both cases got torn off. To all subsequent scribes the sentence was nonsense. But they copied it exactly as they found it. That to me is one of the great proofs of the dependability of the Scripture. That when people found an obvious error as they were copying, they did not try to correct it. They copied it as it was, thought it was perfectly obvious to them it was an obvious error in it.