

HOW CAN A WRITTEN BOOK BE THE INERRANT WORD OF GOD?
 Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, ILL.
 Oct. 31, 1982
 AAM- Vidio Tape

Bruce Dunn: I met Allan MacRae for the first time this morning prior to the first service, but have known of him for many years. We've had some mutual friends, some of them are in his school in PA. Some years ago I used to hear him speak in chapel in Wheaton College. I don't think he'd mind me telling you that God has blessed him with length of years to serve the Lord. He's in the octogenarian class and still going strong for the Lord. A stalwart defender of the faith who has had quite a career in archaeology and the Bible and God has wonderfully used him standing up for the Bible as the very Word of God. Dr. MacRae, welcome again to this service and God bless you as you speak to us.

AAM: For many years I have heard of the fine testimony of this ch. and of its outreach and I praise God for the ch. and for its godly pastory, and the way God has used him.

I was asked to come here today and speak to you on a rather unusual topic: How can a written book be the inerrant Word of God? As I begin I would like to read a few vv. from the sixth ch. of Isaiah(reading text) Then I want to skip down to the eighth verse. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for me. Then said I, Here am I, send me."

There are two thoughts in these vv. I read to you. The first is the glory of God. The great vision Isaiah had of God. The second is that God actually spoke. A century ago, you would hardly find many people in the U.S. who would call themselves athiests. Most people a century ago believed there was a God. A God who controls all things. They might ignore Him. They might go on in their sinful ways and pay no attention, but in their hearts they knew that God exists, that God is powerful, that God controls all things.

Moody tells us--the great evangelist that did such a great work between 1860 and 1900--that when he began his work, all he needed to say was, You are a sinner, you need to turn to Christ for salvation."People would say, Yes, I know I'm a sinner; I know there is a great God; I know I need salvation." Some would come. Others would wait and put it off. Alas many delayed too long. Moody said that toward the end of his life, he found a different attitude. He found that people were beginning to say, How do I know there's a God? How do I know this book is God's Word? How do I know that any of this is true?

There was a movement which began about 1860 and which spread through the world--a movement of denial of the Word of God and even a denial that there is a God! This movement to a large extent can be attributed to the work of Chas. Darwin, who is generally thought of as the founder of the doctrine of evolution. A theory which made its way slowly, but which made its way through most of the countries of the world. Today evolution is taught as established fact in most of our universities, in many of our high