

Many people think of revelation as a sort of old medieval idea that has no meaning for modern man. What do we care about revelation? Actually revelation is one of the commonest features of life because revelation is simply communication from one person to another. You look at me. You look at my face, at my hands. Then I say, What state do you think I was born in? If I took a vote from all those who are here I doubt if a majority of you, I doubt if a tenth of you would guess the state! I would have to give you a revelation to tell you the fact that I was born in upper Michigan, and that I lived there for the first 13 years of my life.

But I have lived far away from that place ever since. You would never know that if I or someone else did not give you a revelation. If we are to know what kind of a God there is we have to have a revelation from Him. So in the passage I read to you this morning God spoke to Isaiah. God gave to Isaiah a revelation. The Bible tells us that God gave revelations to people in ancient times. God spoke to this person, to that person, to the other person. He gave them a message.

But the Bible also tells us that there were false prophets in ancient times. There were true prophets to whom God spoke; there were false prophets who imagined God spoke to them. Who lied. How are we to know whether God actually spoke to them or not? Suppose you have some kind of dream. God gave dreams to people in ancient times to give them an idea of what was going to happen in the future. Or would show them what God wanted them to do. Suppose you had a dream. Maybe God spoke to you in that dream. Maybe. But maybe it was from something you ate, or something you had heard. How are you to know?

So God gave us something that would definitely be a message from him so we would not have to be uncertain whether it was a true revelation or not. God caused that the prophets and those to whom He spoke would write down some of the things they saw, some of their observations, some of the messages God gave them. And they would put them together in a book and this book would be God's inerrant revelation thru all the ages to come.

It sounds like a complicated idea. Somebody says, You talk to me. You give me revelation of what you think, but I don't fully understand it. Some have even said, Nobody can fully understand what is in the mind of another. Yes, communication is a difficult thing, and yet it is a fact that most of us are able to quite an extent to communicate our ideas to others, and if we can do it certainly the sovereign Almighty God can give us a communication of what he not only wanted people in ancient times to know, but what he wants us to know and all future ages. That is what our Lord Jesus Christ implied was the Bible. It is God's inerrant revelation, and we can trust whatever we find in it.

Now God gave the Bible to us in Hebrew, in Aramaic, and Greek. This Bible we have is an excellent translation from those languages. But there is no such thing as an absolutely accurate translation. When I first went to Germany many years ago, shortly after I had been there I came on to a German woman somewhere who knew that I was English speaking. She stepped up to me and said, "Good-bye!"