

I think the term is a good one but one which might lead us into false assumptions--there is that danger and there is a great danger for us to get that attitude towards the English words and there are an awful lot of people who quote the King James Version, word for word as though those were the inspired words and they might be beautiful statements, but they don't tie up with anything that is in the mind of the author of the Bible. It is a good thing to face, and if you are up against intelligent people who are up against this problem of inspiration, and you present it to them in such a way that it means to them that these words--these sounds--these are the wonderful magic things that God has given us--if they in turn study into the matter, they can have the reaction that many a person has had--of coming to the N.T. and finding that the O.T. quoted ~~many~~ <sup>is</sup> many times but it is not word for word--very often a passage is merely summarized and often they will use the LXX where the LXX is even a poor translation, ~~is~~ but it is good enough to bring out the particular thought they have in mind and they don't bother giving you an accurate translation because the passage that is mentioned reminds you of the passage which is a familiar version, and in other places where the idea isn't in the LXX they will make an exact translation from the Heb., but when it comes to a literal verbal translation, the N.T. does not do it--time after time the method is not that, but the method is to show you what the thought is, rather than to take the attitude that there anything magical in the words. It is a misunderstanding of verbal inspiration, in which many fundamentalists have fallen into, and which in turn provokes a very natural feeling against verbal inspiration on the part of many intelligent people which is not really against verbal inspiration but against the false understanding of it. The time is mentioned for the time or preparation for that which is predicted in the verse. It is just as if I were to say to a man that was leaving here for San Francisco--When you get to San Francisco, be sure and say Hello to Mr. Cater, but you would say that he is right here in Wilmington--what on earth does he mean? He is right here in Wilmington. Then this man might get a letter while he was about half way there--he would get a letter from his wife here in Wilmington, and she might mention that she saw Mr. Cater rushing to the train with two heavy suit-cases in his hand--then the man would say that was exactly what I would expect because Dr. MacRae said that I should look him up in San Francisco--he was in Wilmington then, but this statement shows that he was going to be going to San Francisco.