

not give them a revelation for this. Everybody knew it. And they simply wrote down what they heard from others or what they observed themselves. Much of the Scriptures consists of men writing ~~a~~ down what they observed, what they heard - or what they have heard. The New Testament writers speak as witnesses of what they saw Jesus do and what they heard Him say. Luke tells what he saw Paul do and what he heard him say. They do not claim that God revealed these things directly to them. They write down what they observed. To us it becomes the revelation of the mind of God because it is part of the Bible which is in its entirety a revelation to us. But the writer received the information in the first instance in a different way.

However there are many parts of the Bible which claims specifically to contain material that a writer received as a direct communication from God. Moses tells us that God spoke the words of the ten commandments. He ~~makim~~ says that God took him into the mountain - had him go into the mountain and there showed him the form of the tabernacle which he wished made. That God gave him the law and the ordinances which Israel should follow. That God prescribed the laws for the priests contained in the book of Leviticus. ~~A~~ ~~n~~ Dozens of times the prophets say "thus the Lord has said", and then proceed to give a message which we are to understand God gave them as a direct revelation. Paul claims that he was taken into a third heaven and there saw things that it is not lawful for a man to utter. God gave specific revelations.

This ~~makim~~ claim that the Bible contains revelations from God - that God spoke directly to the prophets and gave them messages is a stupendous claim and may seem to be unrealistic and out of touch with modern ideas. But a ~~hm~~ little reflection will show that this is not the case. It boils down to the question, is God a person? If God is a mere ~~influence~~ influence, if He is a great force, simply we cannot expect then that we should have a revelation or a communication from him. We do not expect a cloud to speak to us. We don't expect the ocean to talk. We do not expect electricity to give us a message. But as soon as we see another person, we expect that person to give us a message. When we meet a friend on the street we may say good morning, it's a fine day. The friend knows perfectly well whether it is a good morning or not and whether the weather is nice. So if he answers yes indeed, he does not receive from us a revelation that it is a good day. He receives a