

On line 9 of page 38 McCarter, speaking of this same passage, expressly said: "Here Matthew says that he is quoting from Jeremiah." Thus he laid a foundation for giving the false impression on page 41 that Calvin thought the same thing. As we have already seen, this is not what Calvin held at all.

Several times on page 38 McCarter uses the phrase, "The dictation theory of inspiration." This so-called "dictation theory of inspiration" is a straw man that the liberals are constantly raising. There is nothing wrong with dictation. Every businessman dictates to his secretary. There is no reason why God could not have dictated the whole Bible if He chose. Certainly He dictated the ten commandments and various other important portions of the Bible. Yet no informed conservative believes that God dictated the whole Bible, and the Bible nowhere says that He did such a thing. The teaching of the Bible is quite different. God selected the men who were to write the books that He desired to have included in His Word. He directed the lives of these men so that they would have the experiences that He would desire them to have. He gave them definite revelations of His will, but, as a rule, He allowed them to write in their own terminology, using the phraseology and type of approach that was characteristic of each of them, while the Holy Spirit so overshadowed and directed them that none of the errors that were in their minds would find their way into anything that they wrote in a book that God intended should be part of His Holy Word. This is very far from being a "dictation theory of inspiration," although the resulting Scripture is just as accurate as it would be if God had dictated the entire Bible. These 66 books as they came from the hands of the inspired authors, were free from all error of any kind.

When liberals criticize what they call "the dictation theory of inspiration," they misrepresent what Christians believe about the Bible. Then they use this misrepresentation as an excuse for attacking the whole teaching of the Bible. When they finish their treatment of God's Word, they have nothing left except what can be fitted into their human speculation and human philosophy.

Further down on page 41, McCarter makes a statement which, if taken as it stands, is entirely true, but which, in the context of McCarter's other statements, leads to implications that are quite misleading. He says: "In matters of faith and life (not grammar, science, or even ancient history), the Scriptures are our guide. They can instruct us for salvation, though *they do* not promise to make us scientists or historians."

As it stands this statement is absolutely true. God did not undertake through the scriptures to instruct us in grammar, science, or ancient history. The Bible is only secondarily interested in all these matters. It was written to