

The Bible is sufficient for all practical purposes. Much theoretical knowledge beyond these practical purposes can be gained from it, but it must be recognized that the giving of such knowledge is not the primary reason why God gives us the Bible, and therefore that much material of this type--perhaps even some material of transcendent importance for a full understanding of the nature and character of God--is not even touched upon in the Bible.

2. Relation to temporary situations

The Bible was given for the guidance of human beings in all periods of time. The prophets spoke to their own day and gave what was important for the direction of God's people in their time. Conditions change and new factors enter, while old factors disappear. God caused that out of the mass of material revealed to the prophets for their own generation, that part should be preserved in the Bible which would teach what was necessary for the practical guidance of His people in later times. Some material was included that had great relevance to the time of the prophet and had little immediate relevance for later periods, because through analogy it could teach important principles. Other material was revealed that might have had comparatively little relevance for the time of the prophets but might become of tremendous importance in relation to changing situations of a later period. Thus one cannot expect at any one time to understand all elements of Biblical teaching.

C. Limitations produced by incompleteness of human reasoning

Human reason requires data on which to operate. God has endowed mankind with minds that are capable of discovering important concepts, if sufficient data are available. Until these concepts have been ascertained the data may seem to contradict each other. When the necessary concept is lacking, there is a