

Perhaps it was because Seleucus lived longer than any other successor of Alexander that the people of Syria became accustomed to dating events after the year he returned to Babylon (312 B.C.), and this custom was continued to some extent, even into the late Middle Ages.

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### **IVAN PANIN'S NUMERICS**

While I never met Dr Panin personally, it is my impression that he spent a great deal of time and effort on a type of investigation which was not based on sound methods of investigation, and consequently that little value is to be placed upon his conclusions.

I am sorry to have this impression, because it was Dr Panin's claim, by this method, to defend belief in verbal inspiration of the Scriptures and this is a belief which I myself hold very strongly.

This does not mean that I believe that God dictated the Bible. There may be parts that He dictated, but most of it He gave in a different way, through human writers. The Spirit selected these writers, led them in their experiences of life, and oversaw their selection of words from their own vocabularies, so as to express their observations correctly, and infallibly to describe the revelations that God had given them. Thus the words of the Bible express the personality and viewpoint of the human writers, and are, nevertheless, just as true as if God had dictated them.

Actually, the important thing is not the words but the meaning; yet the meaning is presented by the words and it is only from the words that we can make sure what the meaning is. We cannot say that these are necessarily the only words that would express this meaning, but we can be sure that these words, rightly interpreted,