

Tues. eve. #7

asthough
sounds/~~asthough~~ it would be a most terrible thing - to believe in a "dictation
theory." I don't know/^{quite} what's so terrible about it. I dictate to a secretary.
Why shouldn't God dictate if he chose? And the Bible says God did dictate the
Ten Commandments. And there are certain parts of the Bible which are unquestion-
ably intended to be given to us as word-for-word what God said. But the great
bulk of the Bible is not given to us by dictation, but it is given to us by the
Spirit of God; it is what God has given for us today. But the Bible contains
the record of how God spoke to these individuals in ancient times, and it says
here that he spoke in various manners. Now you talk with a person, and the
person can say exactly the same words to you on three occasions, and you can
get three entirely different ideas: because of his facial expression, because
of the emphasis that he puts into his words - the tone of his voice; there are
all sorts of things that contribute to our speaking. And we read how God said
to Moses, "Make the ark this way; make the tabernacle like this, and this ~~and~~
this and this -" and we read all these directions; and then we find later that
he says to Moses, "Be sure you make it like the model that was shown you in the
mountain. Did God give those words to Moses? Or did God show Moses a picture,
a chart of it? - so that Moses would see what God wanted him to know, instead
of his being given the exact words." We don't know. He spoke in different
ways at different times. But God spoke. And whenever you speak in words or
in any way, there is always the possibility of misunderstanding, and so we have
to compare Scripture with Scripture to ascertain (know) what God meant by what
He spoke. It's all too easy to grab a few words out of context, and think
that's what the Bible teaches on ~~666~~ the subject. Now those words may express
exactly what God teaches on the subject. Very often a group of words summarizes
the teaching of a passage, but, we want to be sure it does. A few words out of
context may give us an utterly false idea of that the context actually teaches.
We have to interpret passages as a whole, and to see what God said. And so the
Bible says that God spoke, and that he spoke in various ways. And if we believe
in a real God, there's no difficulty in believing that God did speak, in various