

so unless he either went there or received a communication from someone who had been there. I fear that many philosophical discussions of today are valueless, because they attempt to solve questions for which they do not have access to the necessary data. Let us suppose that a number of very intelligent men, none of whom had ever been in China, or had ever heard or read a communication from anyone who had been in the Orient, were to go to the top of a hill on the edge of the Pacific ocean. Standing at this vantage point, they might be able to see as far as fifty miles across that expanse of water. It would be utterly impossible, however, for them to see whether there was a continent beyond the water or not. They might discuss the question, whether there was a land across the sea or not. They might argue as to what kind of people were there, what sort of language these people spoke, what were their customs and manners. They might seek to determine the geography of the country: is it flat or hilly? Do its rivers run from north to south like the Mississippi, or from south to north like the Nile, or from west to east like the Amazon, or from east to west like the Columbia? These and a thousand other questions might be discussed very acutely by this council of great minds, but all the knowledge they could thus gather on these subjects would be utterly worthless when compared to what could be told them by a man of only normal intelligence, if he had been in China and was willing to reveal his knowledge to them.

It is exactly the same way with eternal things. God knows the beginning and end of this universe. He knows His purpose in creating mankind. He knows how and why we were created. He knows how sin came into the world. He knows the fate of those who continue in sin, and the only possible way of escape from sin's results. God has access to the data regarding all these matters, and human beings have no such access to them. There is no possible way that we can learn them except by getting a revelation from the One who knows.