

There is much similarity between the situation of a man as he faces life, and our hypothetical situation in the railroad station. Each of us must make decisions which affect our eternal destiny. We have no way of knowing what that destiny is unless God, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, gives us a revelation to explain it to us. Christians believe that the Bible is such a revelation. There is nothing unnatural or unreasonable about this claim, for it is exactly parallel to our everyday experience in learning about a distant continent or in examining a railroad time table.

Right here we strike a difficulty. Some people say that they cannot believe that God could dictate a book. Yet there is nothing absurd about dictation. Every executive dictates to a stenographer. It is a common experience of life. There is no reason God could not have dictated the whole Bible if He chose. However, God did not choose to give us the Bible in that way. It was His will that the Bible should be made available to us in such a way that we would be able easily to understand its concepts. He desired to put these concepts into human terms, so that finite human minds could grasp them; therefore He gave His revelation step by step in ancient times. The Holy Spirit of God selected the men who were to be writers of parts of His Books. He trained them especially for His purpose. He caused them to have the experiences He wished them to have. He revealed to their minds the truths that were vital for them to know and then He oversaw their activities as they selected words in their own vocabulary in order to write down the ideas that should be contained in the various portions of God's Word. Comparatively little of the Bible was given by direct dictation, but all of it was overseen and inspired by the Spirit of God in such a way that every part of it expresses the mind of God to us. This