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Summer Theological Institute 6/8/77 Revelation

AAM

Somebody told me he was quite suprosed that I was going to speak about the book of Revelation; he thought tht wasin the N.T. and I deal ordinarily with the OT. But I think if you look further on the program you can see that the subject that has been assigned to me is Revelation as it is related to the subject of Inspiration and this subject that is so vital today, the Inerrancy of the Bible. What is Revelation?

I think it would be good to begin our study of this subject with the first two vv. of the book of Heb. "God who at various times and diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son." There we have perhaps as clear a v. as any v. of Scripture on this subject of Revelation. Now some people have the idea that Rev. is a sor of queer, old-fashioned, mideaval concept, that does not have much meaning for our modern day. The reason for that is that we have come to confine the word, quite generally in our usage to Divine Revelation and Inspiration. The world as a whole is controlled by the Evil One, and all of our media practically is controlled by the secularist view that tries simply to bow God out of His universe. So if we take the word, however, and see what it really means, it does not mean Divine Revelation, necessarily.

Revelation is simply communication. Revelation is simply passing on information from one individual to another. It is something that is very familiar to all of us. You look at me here and if you did not know me before, if you had not heard about me before. you might wonder where I was born. You might wonder what State I came from originally. You could not tell much about that from looking at my face, bylooking at my beard, by arms. That wouldn't give you much information about me. If you listened to my voice -- if I had lived all my life in one state, you probably could tell where it was. But since in my first & 30 yrs. I lived in three widely separated sections of our country, I doubt if my particular dialect would make it possible for you to pinpoint a statement which === the state in which I was born.

The only way you could get that information would be by revelation. In other words by communication; either I would tell you or someone else would tell you what they had heard from me. It takes communication to get most of the facts that we have in life.

Now Revelation or Communication is one of the commonest features in life. We speak of **the**x it often as if it was something bizzare. and strange because the use of the term is to so large an extent confined to theological connections. But actually it speaks of almost the most familiar thing there is, in our life. It is a thing that is natural; it is natural to any personality to try to reveal ourselves. We feel inclined when we are with other persons to express ourselves, to them.

I had this fact brought home to me most forcibly once when I was studying at the U. of Berlin, and I received word that my sister. who was slightly sounger than I was at the time, was going to make a visit. She arrived, and she did not know German at all.