

There are various things we must test in connection with any alleged revelation. I would mention three: There is the reliability of the source; there is the directness of the message; and there is the ability of the recipient to understand the language. These three enter in very definitely to our ability to receive a revelation or to put trust in any revelation.

The reliability of the source is something we should always consider. They had some pictures on TV not long ago, and on the bottom it said, Pictures made by the People's Government of China. That was done in order to give people to understand these were pictures that were not made by some unbiased reporter who went in and took whatever he wanted to, but they are the pictures that the Govt. of the Communist Regime was willing should go out. We have to -- I don't think those pictures were altered in any way; they were probably true pictures, but they were selected pictures, they do not give us a whole pictures. Now it is possible to change pictures and it is possible to change a ~~pixt~~ book. It is possible to make great changes in a revelation. So it is of great importance to know the reliability of the source. So we read that God spoke. God has given us this revelation. That is very vital. There are those today who say the Bible is dependable when it comes to religious matters but when it comes to scientific or historical matters we cannot trust it. I do not believe we can approach it that way. I do not believe we are capable of deciding what are scientific matters and what are matters of historical matters and what are religious matters. The Bible is all God's revelation; it is all dependable. We know God is the source from which it came. Of course it has come through various channels. We must recognize that fact. The Bible is not given to us as if we heard God speak at Sinai. It comes to us through channels. The reliability of the source is of tremendous importance in relation to any revelation. Where did it come from?

The communists in Russia in their statements of their purposes and methods -- I read it explicitly years ago -- that they said the purpose of language is to accomplish results desired. Not to give an idea of whether something is so or not, but to accomplish results desired. They explicitly said they would not hesitate to say one thing today and the opposite tomorrow, if by so doing they accomplish the purpose they have in ~~mind~~ mind. Now there are people who take just that ~~z~~ attitude toward (?) Once ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ we understand that they do we are not much inclined to put much dependance in what they say. But God is a God of truth. He is dependable. We know He will not lie We know the Bible comes from God and so we know that this is thoroughly dependable in what He originally said when He caused it to be placed in the Bible.

There are many voices in the world today. I talked with a man yesterday who told me how before he became a Christian he constantly heard voices telling him to commit suicide, or telling him to exert violence, telling him all kinds of things. He constantly heard these voices. There are all kinds of imaginary voices in the world and there are all kinds of real voices in the world. There are == I've been surprised sometimes, I've been with a group of people who have been discussing a certain ~~xxx~~ viewpoint on something and talking very positively about it and expressing ~~the~~ their ideas.