

I haven't had the impression they've really studied the matter very much, and I've said two or three sentences very hesitantly because I didn't like to have them all jump on me and say I was completely erroneous. But just two or three sentences expressing the opposite opinion, and to my amazement they turned right around, and gone ahead and given evidences for the thing I had been presenting. People are often that way. We have to know that our revelation comes actually from God, that it is divine.

When it comes to this we have as our great primary evidence the character of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not accept the fact that Christ is God because the Bible teaches it and then say that the Bible is true because Jesus says it is. That would be reasoning in a circle. But we can take the books of the NT and aside altogether from divine inspiration they are evidence that the One who was superior in His character to any man who ever lived. No other character as perfect as Christ has ever lived, or been imagined by any fiction writer. ~~THE~~ When the fiction writer tries to present a character that is very very good, he is apt to present someone who is artificial and unreal and unnatural. But the pictures of Jesus Christ in the Gospels do not sound unreal or unnatural. They are thoroughly human and they have a perfection no other human has ever had.

We see our sin and need of a Saviour and find the answer to it in Jesus. Once we have accepted Him as our master and Lord then we are interested to follow Him in whatever he teaches, and He clearly teaches that the OT and by prophecy the NT is God's Word and is entirely free from error and dependable. As Christians we follow our Lord in His attitude toward our Bible. Time after time instead of simply declaring an idea He said, It is written and He quoted from the OT. It isn't so much a matter of an occasional statement about it -- we can find those -- but His whole attitude as shown in the Gospels, and the attitude of the NT writers is one of implicit faith in the statements of the Bible. God has spoken. God is the source; it is thoroughly dependable.

Of course in recent years we have had evidence from archaeology. When it comes to attempting from archaeology to prove that everything in the Bible is true, this of course is utterly impossible. The Bible gives us a pictures of events in ancient times as seen by those who were there then and as God led them in their writings so that what they gave is true, but it gives only certain aspects. If you were to try to describe everything that happened in the last 24 hrs., you would fill an entire Encyclopedia. We have to select. And here we have a selection. You can't reconstruct the whole history of Bible times, from the Bible. It would be impossible from the amount of information given there. Those people of ancient times, they lived, they died and were buried and their houses -- whatever of them was combustible eventually was burned up or torn down, and there are fragments there that have been found by archaeology. So to attempt to prove by archaeology that every statement in the Bible is true would be utterly ridiculous. I heard of an evangelist once who said