

6. The alleged difficulty of expressing supernatural truth in human words

For a time Karl Barth and his followers had a wide influence. He maintained that the supernatural was so altogether different from the natural that nothing positive or propositional could be said about it, but that the supernatural might break through into our world and make a difference in the attitudes of a particular individual. Again, this is not a problem for the evangelical. He believes that data for knowledge about God and the supernatural can be found in the Bible. When solid data are available propositional statements are always possible, though it must be recognized that such statements may be incomplete, or may be affected by concepts not envisioned in a particular statement. These limitations (see discussion under limitations) are just as true of propositional statements regarding natural science as of propositional statements regarding theology. The only difference is in the source of the data.

7. The alleged temporary nature of Scriptural teaching

It is sometimes said that statements in the Bible, being addressed to the people of the day, look at things from their viewpoint and deal with their problems in such a way as to have little relevance to modern man. Though this might perhaps be true of some of the oral utterances of the prophets or even of the apostles, we should recognize that inspiration means that God guided the writers in their selection of material to be incorporated in the books that He intended should form parts of His revealed Word, and therefore that every part of the Bible has real significance for all of God's people at all times, even though some parts may have greater significance at one time than another, and some parts are to be interpreted analogically rather than literally (e.g., "beat swords into ploughshares").