

or actual sentences, and show visions or pictures, or give a revelation in human words is a miracle. Divine revelation is the first great miracle involved in the Bible. The fact that God made His people recognize the prophets to whom He gave His messages as truly having spoken from His was a great miracle. If you or I claimed to present a revelation from God, who can prove whether we are lying or not? How can we be sure that we are not ourselves imagining things? Perhaps the vision was not the result of God's activity but of something you ate! Or perhaps you did receive an actual revelation, but the vision came from a demon rather than from God. God gave revelations to the prophets and these revelations are contained in the Bible and nowhere else.

The second miracle, the miracle of inspiration, is quite distinct from revelation. God caused that human beings whom He selected and prepared for the purpose would write down accurately the revelations He had given them, and, in addition write such matters of their own observation and their own thought as He desired to make part of His revelation to succeeding ages. Not every word of the Bible represents a direct revelation from God. Much of it came as God caused holy men to write and as He led them to use their own experience, their own vocabulary, their own thoughts so as to produce a writing that would contain exactly what He desired to be preserved permanently for the guidance of His people. The miracle of inspiration is quite distinct from that of revelation, but equally important. As a result of it the whole Bible ~~is~~ is a revelation from God to us.

There is a third miracle which some may think is simply an act of providence, but it is so very remarkable that I believe we must call it a miracle. It can be shown that within 400 years after the last book of the Old Testament was written, the Jews, the people of God to whom the Old Testament was given, were absolutely unanimous in their agreement on the books that God desired to be part of His Old Testament and they have continued to agree on this ever since.