

inspired or that it is the Word of God, or that the Bible is the Word of God. It is important that we divide - We do not say the Bible contains the Word of God. We don't say that when one reads the Bible he has an experience which we call the Word of God or that something happens directly between him and God which we call the Word of God. Christians have definitely designated the Bible itself as the Word of God. That is to say it is the means by which God communicates to the Christian the ideas that He desires him to have. It is God's word. It is God's word whether we accept it or reject it. It is God's word whether we believe it or don't believe it. It is God's word whether we understand or fail to understand it. It is just as much His word as a message given out by television, by the President of the United States, is the President's message. Whether we accept it or not, whether we understand it or not. Whether it has any affect or not affect, it is the President's message. Similarly the Word of God is ~~and~~ objectively God's Word altogether apart from whether we receive it so that it becomes His word to us or whether it remains simply His word but not affecting us at all. It is, in either case, still God's word.

In order to understand the concept of what we mean by saying that the Bible is verbally inspired or that it is the Word of God, it is helpful to divide the matter into two sections. We will indicate these by the words revelation and inspiration. We have said that the Bible is - the whole Bible is God's revelation to us. By that we mean that God gives us the Bible and from it we can get the ideas He wants us to have. From it we get an understanding ^{of} / ^{to us ?} the thoughts He wishes, still it is God's revelation to the Christian. Thus far we are speaking of the result - the Bible as a result. The revelation of God. The Bible as the means to the Christian, revealing God's will to each one of us who studies the Bible. A different way to look at it would be ~~in~~ to ask the question how was the Bible given and here we can say in a certain very definite sense, the Bible contains revelation from God. That is to say there are many points in the Bible where the claim is made that God ~~manifests~~ ~~manifests~~ reveals a certain idea to a certain writer. There is much in the Bible that ~~is~~ ~~is~~ does not have to be a revelation like this. The writers of the historical books in the Old Testament tell us of the battles which they observed and of the kings whom they saw crowned. They tell us how old the king was when he died. God did