

we have noticed that our answer to the most basic theological challenge of our day is fundamentally a very simple answer. The Bible is God's Word, it is a revelation giving us information on matters we could not possibly know from our own observation or inference. It represents the mind of the infinite God and tells us those things that He wants us to know. It is therefore inerrant in the original manuscripts, and absolutely reliable. Thus far our answer to the challenge is fundamentally a very simple one. Such communications though from far less trustworthy sources are available to us in every field of thought and are constantly used by us.

Yet, recognizing this, we must also recognize the fact that there are certain phases of this statement that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God which are not so simple but are rather complex. This is so not because of problems, this is so, not principally because of problems in relation to God's Word but of problems in relation to all communication.

It is a difficult thing to communicate between two personalities. The idea in one mind may be very similar to the idea that is passed on to the other minds, but it is not necessarily identical. To get the full range of the idea across is a difficult thing. This is the reason why God instead of giving us a simple creed which was inspired of Him or a brief statement like the mathematical formula, that contained all that we needed to know, has given us a long book. The book is the record of the means that He has used to communicate ~~the~~ to mankind the ideas that He wished us to know. Progressive revelation does not mean that He has ever communicated anything that is wrong, or that can now be discarded as incorrect. It does mean however that He has used various methods to present the Truth from different sides and particularly methods of developing understanding and forming basic concepts in the minds of His people in order that we would be able to grasp the further elements of His revelation. This basically is what we mean by progressive revelation. All communication must be progressive. As Isaiah said, little by little, jot upon jot, line ~~and~~ upon line, we build up that which we are attempting to communicate.