

COMMENTS REGARDING GOD'S CONTROL OF HISTORY

The question is asked, "How can one know that a certain historical movement is divinely controlled? How can one know that Jesus is unique? How can we know that His statement about the accuracy of the Old Testament Canon is true if we do not know the historical processes that entered into the achievement, within a few centuries after the completion of the last book, of a unanimous opinion of the Jews--the people of God to whom it was given--that these books were indeed the Word of God?"

My feeling about these questions can be well summarized by an illustration. I go into a factory and see some men working. They are shaping lumps of metal into various forms. They are arranging electrical circuits. They are doing many of the things that enter into the making of a modern airplane. In another factory, similar things are being done. I myself could not judge whether any particular workman was doing the right thing or not. The engineer had a definite plan in mind when they laid out the plans and assigned the various tasks to the individuals who were supposedly skilled in particular specialties or who were directed as to how to perform certain unskilled tasks. Eventually the planes in the two factories were finished. Though they were quite different in appearance, one was as likely to fly as the other, as far as I as an onlooker could judge. However, an expert who looked at the two planes might be able to make a better judgment. One plane, he might say, had certain peculiarities about it that are apt to lead to trouble. He might think it unlikely that this one would stand the rigid tests that must be given to a new plane. The other plane impressed him as more likely to succeed. Then a test pilot would take each of the two planes up into the air. One might make a nice flight, but the other might go to pieces when the test pilot would make a sharp turn, so that it would be only by the use of his parachute that he could escape with his life.