

it states that saw a six-year old, it does not say whether he was in the beginning of his sixth year or toward the end of it. Any human statement can be found to have a certain degree of precision and a certain degree of imprecision. There are always questions that can be raised that the statement does not answer. X Human words express ideas but they also raise questions. In the Bible we must look to other passages to try to find the answer to these questions. We read in, thus in Luke we read that Christ met two disciples on the Emmaus Road. They are always referred to as the disciples. It has been quite customary to think that they were two men. Yet the suggestion has been made that one of them may have been a woman, and the fact of the matter is that no one can prove whether one was a woman or not. The Bible simply does not say. It leaves us in ignorance on this fact. Any statement in human words gives a certain amount of knowledge that also leaves many Christian questions unanswered. Verbal inspiration means that those conclusions which can be properly drawn from the words as they stand are conclusions which are true and dependable. But the words are adapted to give true knowledge and properly understood, they do not give ideas that are contrary to fact.

However, the main point that we have been stressing now is that verbal inspiration refers to a result rather than the means. It does not advance the consideration any to cast ~~seren~~ scorn upon the idea of dictation. Every one who accomplishes much in the present world finds himself sometime in a position of dictating. Any one who has a secretary often dictates letters or perhaps whole books. It is nothing degrading in the least in the idea of dictation. However, the Bible nowhere says that all of it was dictated. Certain parts were dictated, as the Ten Commandments, and many places where it says that the Lord declared certain things. However, it is also clear that the Bible teaches that many things in it represent what human beings thought, or the result of their reflections. There is a difference in the style of different books which shows a definite human element in the preparation of the book. Verbal inspiration does not mean that the books have been dictated.