

up and you see a log cabin. You will immediately say, "Somebody else must have been here, and must have built that log cabin." You must either admit that some other person has been there or you will have to work up an explanation of how the wood could have fallen in such a way that it would build a log cabin by a natural process. That is the situation when a man thinks of the Pentateuch. Either God gave it to us or it was produced in a natural way. But if it developed in a natural way, what is that way? If you can show a natural way, which finds a clear analogy to developments elsewhere, you think you can destroy any argument for a divine origination, just as, if you can prove that a log cabin can just grow, you destroy it as an evidence for the fact that some individual was there. That is the problem that produced the higher criticism. The Pentateuch exists. How can we explain this fact? How did it come into existence? Of course, our explanation is not extremely simple either. Scholarly Christians do not say, "God dictated the Pentateuch word by word." There may be some who do, but they are rare. It is not the view that educated conservatives have held, at least in the last ninety years, that God simply dictated all the Pentateuch and Moses wrote down what God dictated, or that God dropped the book down from heaven and there it was. This would be a simple explanation, but that is not what we believe. What we believe is that "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." We believe that these men wrote what they saw, that they told about the facts that they observed. We believe that they included also those revelations which God gave directly to them, along with the facts that they observed. And that the Holy Spirit oversaw the process in such a way that what they wrote, while it shows their personalities, was the expression of their ideas, and used their vocabularies and their mental outlook, was yet so overseen by the Holy Spirit and so directed by Him that it also represented the mind of God. The writers correctly gave those facts that God wanted us to have, and left out from the inspired writings the many erroneous ideas which were in the minds of the men who wrote the books that God intended to preserve as parts of His inerrant Word. Thus, we believe, there came into existence a book which expresses the mind of God, a book which is entirely true and reliable, a book which contains a revelation of many divine truths that we could not learn from any other source.