

2. How God gave us the Old Testament.

There are many in the world that would make fun of the Christian for believing the Bible thinking that it was dictated by and God and someone wrote it off--of course we do not believe that God had a printing press and just ran the book off for us, though of course God could have done it this way if He had chosen to do so. If God had willed it, He could have written the whole thing with His own finger and handed it down to us--of course there is nothing absurd about this--consider the wonderful way the human eye is made. But there is no use for us to go about saying that if the Bible nowhere gives us warrant for saying such a thing. God might have done it thus but we do not have proof for that. He did not dictate the whole Bible nor did He write it all out. He partly gave it to us through the historical process and partly through His direct intervention--the historical process was entirely under His directive will. What does the Bible teach us concerning the way in which He gave it to us?

A. He gave parts of it by direct revelation. God did not dictate the whole Bible to us. The Christian church never has believed that this was done. God did dictate certain parts of it. God gave parts of it by direct revelation. The average person doesn't even know what we mean by revelation--it is a mistake to preach about the "Old-fashioned religion of Father and Mother--that doesn't prove a single thing. We aren't interested so much in what they believe as to whether what we believe is true or not. The fact that a thing has been believed by many and has been felt to be a benefit to them gives it a right to be considered and as you find that the great bulk of the people in the United States between 1800 and 1900 believed that this book was the Word of God and thoroughly dependable the person today can say that those were intelligent people - they took that attitude, let's look into it and see whether they were crazy or whether they had some sense in their ideas. It gives it a right to be considered but it does not give anyone any duty to accept it simply because somebody used to accept it. But this word revelation - is it an out of date concept or is it something that is up to date. I think that is important for us to get a clear idea on. An idea of the fact that revelation actually is a theological term used to express an idea that may not be simple but which is common. It is so common that we think of it as simple. There are very few ideas that are really simple. We say seeing is believing but seeing is one of the most complicated things in the world. It is a very complicated thing. ILL. using bifocals. The eye is a most complicated thing that the Lord has given us. This idea of revelation is one of the most