

R2C

This word inerrancy is one that is not used so much a few years ago, but as the unbelievers, people raised with a Christian background and desiring to be accepted with Christians and yet give up certain parts of what Christians have always held, and as they have gradually changed the meaning of words at present the word that they stumble on is inerrancy. I suppose one day they will find some way to reinterpret that word and we will have to take a new word.

But the word inspiration is the word that has historically been used in relation to the Bible through the ages. I think it is very important we say exactly what we mean by saying it is inspired. In the first place we note that inspiration relates to words, not just ideas. There are people who say they believe the Bible is inspired but they don't believe the words are inspired. They think it is the ideas that are inspired. The word inspiration as historically used does not relate to ideas but to words. Revelation relates to ideas. God has revealed an idea. And He has revealed these ideas, Hebrews tells us, in various ways and at various times. At times he will dictate or give precise words that will enable people to understand what they are to have, like the ten commandments which the voice of God spoke. They were specifically given by Him. But this is not all there is to revelation by any means. We have an interesting bit of revelation in Acts 10 where certain words are given but the words are only a very small part of the revelation.

Beginning with Acts 10:9 we find that Peter went up on to the housetop to pray and became hungry. While the meal was being prepared he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him. There's that good old English word "vessel". He didn't see a steamboat coming down! We don't use the word vessel today the way they used it in King James's day. It was then used for almost any kind of tool material, building, almost anything could be a vessel. It was very general. But we have used it very specialized now of boats and rarely of anything else. He saw something coming down which looked like a great sheet let down at the four corners. If you saw a great sheet coming down you'd never call it a vessel. That's not our modern English! In the days of Queen Elizabeth there were those who said, We ought to read the Bible in the Latin. Latin is the sacred language they said. Jerome made a wonderful translation in Latin, and indeed it was wonderful. He translated directly from the Greek for the NT and directly from the Hebrew for the OT. They people of God received great blessing for a thousand years from Jerome's translation into Latin. Strange to say, his translation was called the Vulgate, which meant it was for the vulgar people, and they did not mean by "vulgar" what we mean today -- something that is off color. It meant the common people, the ordinary people. Jerome said, I want it so that the average person who can't read Greek or Hebrew can have the Bible in his own language. So they called his translation the Vulgate, and then 1000 years later when the average person no longer knew Latin the people objected to taking it out of the Vulgate, and they treated that as if it were the Word of God!