

I think our great need is to take God's Word and bring it to people in the language they use. So here he saw a vessel descending - but it wasn't a steam boat, it was a sheet. The sheet was knit at four corners and let down to the earth. Of course any of us could have a dream and have imaginations and we assume it was something we ate. God does not ordinarily speak to us in these days in such a manner. For that matter, the devil, or evil spirits can give us visions and put things into our minds. But when the Bible was being written, God revealed to His people and then God so inspired that that which truly was from God would be preserved and the the errors people had made would be left out, so our means today of knowing what God wants is not in looking for some vision, some dream or some new revelation, but is looking at these 66 books in which He has given us what He wants us to know for our guidance in our Chirstian life today.

We read here how he gave it. He caused this sheet to come down in which were all kinds of four footed beasts of the earth, wild beasts and creeping things and fowls of the air. Then there came a voice that said, Rise Peter kill and eat. Here we have quoted specific words, Rise Peter, kill and eat. Up to here it's only been a description, but the description is just as important in the revelation as the words. If you're just going to take the words you'll pick out these words, Rise Peter kill and eat! What does that mean to you? Are you supposed to go out and kill and eat? Are you supposed to kill your own chickens before you eat it? It would be silly to draw such things from it. It is the totality of the revelation that is important. Here God is giving Peter a message, and the message is not that he should kill add eat but it is another idea God wants to get into his head. God == Revelation deals with ideas.

Peter said, Not so Lord for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. The voice spoke to him again. What God has cleansed call not thou common. This was done thrice and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Here's the revelation. But I don't think we get a very clear idea what the revelation meant if it stood alone. Is he talking about what kind of food you should eat? Is that the subject here? That would seem to be what is given. But actually the purpose of it was something different as Peter soon discovered. Because while Peter was perplexed as to what this vision should mean there were some men who came and made inquiries for Simon's house. God had given them a revelation telling them to send to Joppa to the house of Simon the Tanner and there they would find a man who would give them God's truth. These Gentiles, with whom the Jews would not have much to do because they considered them unclean came and asked for Peter. Then we have more words in v. 19, "Now while Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, Behold three men seek thee." Now here I think there is a vital left out. Three men seek thee. Does that mean there were only three? He did not say only three. They might have had 10 servants with them carrying their stuff. They might have had their wives with them. There might have been a group of six, but there were 3 perhaps that were more prominent. We know there were at least three. You would not say, Three men seek you if there were two, if there were only one. But he doesn't say only.