

Three men are looking for you. Arise therefore; go down and go with them, doubting nothing for I have sent ~~xxx~~ them. Then as it went on what Peter discovered from this was that all mankind is God's creation, not just those who have had His law given from Sinai. All mankind is His creation and even as God gave His messages to Job in ancient times, and there is no mention in Job of God's relation to Israel as His special people who occupied so large a part of the OT, God was telling Peter here was that God has a message for all mankind and whatever God has cleansed we are not to call common.

This is perhaps the greatest attack on racism to be found anywhere in the Bible. It is a common thing with sinful humanity to think that whoever is different from us must be inferior in some way. But the Lord shows here that in every land and nation there are good people and bad people. In every nation there are those whom God leads and uses; and there are those who turn away from God and reject Him. Here God gave a revelation to Peter. You cannot take just a few words out of it and give the whole message. Revelation concerns itself primarily with ideas. Of course our interest in the Bible is in finding its ideas and in finding what the idea is.

But inspiration is something different. In a way inspiration is a negative term, like inerrancy. Inspiration means that God caused that this particular writing which He intended to be part of His Word should be kept from error. It is really the same thing as inerrancy. It is -- inspiration does not mean that God gave all the truth there is about any particular ~~x~~ subject. It seems that whatever truth was so given, so expressed that that no one handling it with proper approach, with reasonable way of looking at it would draw from it something that was erroneous. It was a special act of the Holy Spirit by which the words that were used expressed the thought ~~xx~~ God wished to be included and did not add other ideas that might easily (occur) in any mere human writing.

So inspiration relates specifically to words, that is inspiration in the Christian and theological sense. Of course, it is true ~~xxx~~ that Shakespeare was inspired, and when you look at a view from a great height or high mountain you are inspired. It's true that anyone that gets a thrill from a thing is inspired, but that's entirely different use of the word and has nothing to do with its use in relation to the Bible. Parts of the Bible may thrill and inspire us, others may not. Coleridge said I believe the Bible is inspired because it inspires me! And those parts are most inspired that inspire me the most!" That was a complete mixture of two entirely different ideas which happened to be expressed by the same word in the English language. No doubt there are many different ideas expressed by this same word. I remember once a young fellow said to me, How can you believe the Bible; it has such absurdities in it. " I said, What absurdities? He said, the one I noticed particularly is you read how Noah took some of every every kind of every kind of animal into the ark in addition to a number of people. Then later on you read how the Israelites went through the desert carrying the ark on their shoulders. He said, How is that possible?