

A similar illustration can be drawn from the borders between nations, from the border between ~~the~~ Northern United States and ^{French} Canada. We draw an artificial legal line, and we say, here the United States ends and here Canada begins. This is true when it comes to political jurisdiction. However, there is an intermingling of the two. You can go a short distance south of the line; you find some people speaking French; you find some Canadian money is being used; you find some customs have penetrated; you may not be sure in which country you are. You go a little north of the border; you find some English is used; you find some American money is used; you find many customs which have penetrated. But if you go further in either direction, you can tell immediately in which country you are. There is a great area on both sides of the border which belongs definitely to one country or the other. The border, however, is a place where influence is spread a little in both directions.

It is perfect folly for one to say that we cannot know what the Bible actually says because it is the written manuscripts that are inspired. We do not have the original manuscripts, but we have a great mass of material which we may use in trying to find out exactly what those written manuscripts did say. We have a great element of certainty about them. We have very large areas in which we know certain things to be true. There are large areas which we know not to be true. In between there is this small line. It is the function of textual criticism and of linguistic study to narrow this line as much as possible and tell as accurately as we can exactly what the written manuscripts said and what they meant.

Samuel, now, knew that it was one of the sons of Jesse who was to be made king. God told him as each one came before him that this was not the one. Finally when he had seen seven of them, he thought ~~that~~ ^{still} he had seen all and ~~that~~ God had not designated. He knew then that there must be another one, for God had said that it was to be one of the sons of Jesse.

He sent for David, and when he saw David, God told him that this was the one. Samuel now knew that David was to be king. However, he did not know when he was to be king. There was still this area to which his knowledge did not extend.