

have been given, or on information that has already been received from other sources. If the Bible is sufficient for its purpose, the entire book taken as a whole supplies the entire context that is needed to get from it the message that God intends to give us. Through investigations of archaeology or ancient history may throw light on historical situations, such knowledge is not necessary for the correct understanding of the Bible.

It is important to recognize that no human sentence is ever complete in the sense of answering every question that it might raise. When we say that a man traveled from Boston to Atlanta we have not stated what method of transportation he used or whether he combined more than one method. We have not stated whether the trip was all made at one time or spread over a period of time. We have not said whether he traveled there continuously or whether he stopped over at various places. If he went by air we have not said what line he used or what class he traveled. Any sentence gives certain facts but also leaves many facts unanswered. We cannot require that any sentence gives complete and full answers to all the questions that its words might raise. If two incidents described in the Bible are related one after the other, this **DOES NOT PROVE THAT THEY FOLLOW** one another without any interval between, or even that they occurred in the order in which they occur in the text, unless that is clearly stated. Thus there is no contradiction when the temptations of Christ are described in a different order in different gospels. The order may be chronological or it may be logical.

It is a common error in Bible interpretation to assume that there is a greater degree of preciseness involved than is intended. Thus the dimensions of the brazen sea in Solomon's temple (1 Kings 7:23) are given in tens of