

It is very important that we understand ~~the~~ how God gave us the Bible. Naturally we do not understand all about this. It is a miracle. There are many aspects of it that we do not have the information to know about, and possibly which we could not understand because we would not know the many of the facts involved in the method by which God gave it, but the principle essentials of it are clear. We believe that God oversaw the production of the Bible at every point. He directed == First he prepared the men that were to write it. He oversaw their background, their training, their experiences. He directed them in the selection of the material that they would include in the books that He intended to be part of His written word. There were many false ideas in their minds, as there are in the mind of everyone, and doubtless such ideas appear in other things that they wrote or in talks that they gave. In what God caused to be included in the books that He intended should be part of His word, He caused that they should not include any erroneous ideas, but should include exactly the material He desired should be there. The style of the writings, ^{and} many aspects of the way it is presented ~~is~~ reflects the personality of the authors, but as to the purpose of the Bible, the gaining of the information God wants us to have, the personality of the human author is not of ~~any~~ great importance. What is important is the information that He gives because properly studied it will give us exactly what God wants us to have and will not include anything that is erroneous.

Application of Biblical teaching is an important area but I do not believe it should be a part of hermeneutics. Thus the question has been raised, Was the ~~psap~~ purpose of Elijah's miracles to fight the Baal worship. I understand that a whole book has been written to prove that this was the purpose of the miracles. I do not believe that we can necessarily say what the entire purpose of the miracles that Elijah and Elisha performed. God may have had various purposes in them. No one however can read the story of the context with the prophets of Baal at Mr. Carmel