

individuals who would have particular experiences that would fit them for receiving His truth and for observing what He wished recorded. Then He revealed truths to them in various ways and led them in their selection of the subjects that they would discuss. As they wrote they used their own vocabularies and distinctive styles of expression. Yet God directed them in such a way that what they wrote would be kept free from error of fact, of doctrine or of judgment, and would be useful to His people not only then, but also in the centuries ahead.

WHY SUCH A REVELATION IS NEEDED

Our need of such a revelation can be made clear by an interesting analogy. Let us imagine an ant living in a small oasis in the middle of the Sahara desert. Such a creature might conceivably learn a few facts about the world by its own observation. It would come to realize the great importance of water for its life. It would see a small amount of vegetation and perhaps a few animals. It would observe the great expanse of sand stretching endlessly toward the horizon in all directions, but it could know nothing whatever of the great world beyond. There would be no way in which it could possibly imagine snow-capped peaks, ocean billows, skyscrapers or steamships. These, and a thousand other common features in the life of our world would be absolutely unknown to it. If it were unable to leave the oasis there would be no way that it could learn about such things, unless someone who had seen them were to come to the oasis. Only if it received a communication or revelation from such a person could it even know that they existed.

Our situation in life is really quite similar. By observation and study we can learn much about those features of the material universe that we can touch or see. We can reach conclusions about the psychology of animals and of human beings. Beyond these matters there must be thousands of vital facts that we know nothing about. There is no way that we can learn by our own unaided observation and reason what God is like, what our relationship to Him should be, or what the future holds in store for us and for the world. These and many other important facts require knowledge of data to which we have no access.