

elevator. It does not describe the inner components of a cell or tell about the importance of vitamins. There are thousands of scientific or historical facts in which we might be interested that are not mentioned in the Bible. But wherever it does touch upon science or history we can be sure that what it says is true.

It seems obvious that there are many subjects on which we can not expect the Bible to give us information, and yet this fact is sometimes overlooked. It is perhaps less obvious that we must examine each statement in the Scripture, not only to see what it definitely teaches, but also to make sure that we do not read into it information that it does not actually contain.

Sometimes one wonders whether a Bible interpreter is assuming that the Bible is like a photograph of the earth taken from a high altitude with an extremely fine camera. Such a picture, if examined with a very strong lens, might conceivably yield more and more detail. The Bible is not like this. It is written in human words. There is a limit to the number of questions that any sentence may be expected to cover. Any statement that a person makes will necessarily leave many questions unanswered.

#### UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Thus, if one were to say, "Last week I traveled from Philadelphia to Toronto," it would be very clear that the trip had started in Philadelphia, that it had ended in Toronto, and that it had been made in the previous week. Beyond this one might ask a thousand questions, but no matter how carefully he examined the statement he would not find them answered in it. The statement would not tell whether the speaker walked, rode a horse, went by bus, by train, or in an airplane. If the speaker had said that he "rode from Philadelphia to Toronto," this would eliminate walking, but still would not show which of the other modes of transportation had been used. If it said that he "flew from Philadelphia to Toronto," this would probably indicate that he had come by air, but would not necessarily show whether he had come in a private plane, in a commercial propeller plane, or in a jet. One could not determine from the statement