

to understanding God's natural revelation. They are conscious of the fact that scientists occasionally make errors in the collecting or recording of data, and because of this are afraid to trust science for helping us "read the book of nature." This fear is unjustified, because the making of an error does not indicate that accurate measurement is impossible. For example, we may buy what has been measured for nine feet of lumber, only to find out later that we obtained only eight. The error of the clerk who made the measurement may annoy us, but it never causes us to say that a nine-foot piece of lumber can not be measured out. You will likely go back to the lumber yard and insist that your own observation be added to that of the clerk in cutting off a piece of the correct length. Or, if you felt that two persons could not make sure of the measurement, you could call in a third.

Of course one might say that no matter how many times the measurement was checked, there would be some slight chance that all observers would read the figure 8 on the measuring tape as a 9, and thus obtain the wrong length. Theoretically this may be true, but when we examine cases in the Bible where God expected human beings to make observations and measurements, we find that He knew that measurements could be made with satisfactory accuracy. In other words, human observation can be reliable and can be trusted, at least when it has to do with the more common things of nature and life. A few of the many examples of this found in the Bible are as follows:

1. God commanded Moses and the Israelites, "You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest" (Exodus 34:21). Thus God showed his belief and knowledge that human beings have the ability to observe days and keep a record of the number of days.

2. God commanded Moses concerning the building of the ark of the covenant, and some of the other pieces of furniture of the tabernacle, that they should be built out of acacia wood (Exodus 25:10, 23, etc.). An offering of various building materials was received from the people, "and every man, who had in his possession acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it" (Exodus 35:24). Thus God was recognizing the ability of man to classify types of wood, and to select one particular kind out of the group.

3. God commanded Moses to have any person who had committed theft or robbery return the stolen property, and to "add to it one-fifth more" (Leviticus 6:1-5). Thus God assumes the ability of man to measure fractional amounts of substances.

4. God commanded Moses that if anyone was found offering sacrifice to heathen idols, to the sun, or to the moon, during the period when Moses was in command, the person who had done so was to be put to death. God further commanded that the conviction of guilt for such an offense was to be based on the testimony of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:2-6). Thus God was recognizing the ability of the common people to accurately observe the event