

love and redemptive purpose in Christ. The Bible is Christo-centric, whatever our systems of theology and sermons may be; and it is all given by inspiration of God the Spirit, and is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete; furnished completely unto every good work." It is not vital for us to know precisely how and when and where and by whom these diverse materials were gathered. The essential thing is that we should make sure that God is responsible for collecting them, that we have his guarantee through His Son and through His Holy Spirit in this respect.

The Old Testament, as you know, opens with the Pentateuch containing history and biography and at the same time many divine enactments touching civil and religious matters. Then follow didactic, as well as historical, devotional and prophetic books. The structure of the New Testament is similar. It has its historical pentateuch, the four gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, followed by doctrinal and practical epistles and the great prophetic book of the Seer of Patmos.

Speaking very generally the Bible is a revelation of God and man, and of spirits, good and evil, while it includes also brief statements as to the origin, nature and destiny of the physical universe. These statements are not intended to teach men science,

but they will be found in accord with the verified results of scientific research, and inasmuch as they were made long before these results were reached it is self-evident that they must have come from some other source than the human intellect. They are from God. And as to God's method in gradually and progressively bringing together all that is embraced in his book several things require to be carefully noted.

At the beginning he communicated his mind directly to those who feared and served Him. He spoke to Adam and Eve and Cain both in Eden and beyond its confines. He continued to do so in many instances during the antediluvian age. Enoch walked with God, and Noah heard his voice directing him what to do to escape the destruction coming upon a wicked world.

Later God selected one man, Abraham, and trained him in a marvellous manner. He entered into covenant with him under the provisions of which with the seal of circumcision he gave visible unity to all believers. He made choice of the nation descended from this man, and selected a land for them in which they were to be separated from all the nations of the earth. This separation was to be perpetuated by sundry regulations, and was designed to prevent the people lapsing into polytheism and all its concomitant sins, and to preserve their national purity and stability. God educated this people spiritually and caused to be put on