

objectively, but I do not understand what it means, then is it revelation in the fullest sense? Has any communication taken place? If the Holy Spirit does not illumine what has been objectively revealed, how can I understand the truth? And is not understanding part of the concept of revelation in its fullest sense? These considerations, emphasizing the personal and subjective dimension of revelation, would appear to establish a warrant for the careful study of Scripture as a book of revelation, so that by exegesis and interpretation, explanation and application, men might understand the revelation that God has been pleased to make of Himself.

A second question which has been raised is this: Has all revelation occurred in the past? Does God reveal Himself to men in the present? Once again, John Baillie addresses this issue:

God reveals Himself to me only in so far as I apprehend Him. Such apprehension, however, must be a fact of my own present experience or nothing at all, and that is why more than one of the writers whom we have been quoting insist that "all revelation is the present moment."

... *through* the past God reveals Himself to me *in* the present. This could not be unless He had revealed Himself to others through that past while for them it was still present. Had there been no contemporary prophetic interpretation of God's dealings with Israel, and no contemporary apostolic interpretation of the Gospel history, I should not at this distance be finding the presence of God in them at all On the other hand, I could not know that God had revealed Himself to the prophets and apostles through these events, unless through His revelation of Himself to them He were now revealing Himself to me. I could know indeed that they claimed to have received such a revelation, but I can know that their claim is justified only if, as I read what they say, I too find myself in the presence of God

This would hold good even if, as so often in traditional theology, the *truth* revealed were believed to consist in propositional *truths*, and the authenticity of the past