

proof of inspiration and authority? May it not prove too much, and so prove too little? For differing and contradictory faiths insist that they have the same Spirit of God within the soul; ^{yet} neither can demonstrate. A believer's faith is not infallible. Asked to prove every statement he fails, and all again is only probability or less; yet certainty seems necessary and becoming to the Book of God, and Christianity. I too failed. I tried to believe probability to be certainty, and failed. Is there any certainty, any verifiable proof, that can restore my faith?

I want to ask you whether the following propositions, (which appear to you to be correct) appear to you to be correct?

1. "The Supernatural" is not impossible, therefore not necessarily incredible.
2. The more human assertions of the supernatural is incredible, and so incredible, (Papal Infallibility etc) that we are not bound to believe it on the credibility of any man, and have a right in reason, to explain it, in any possible way, rather than admit it to be fact.
3. All the Bible statements of the supernatural were written by human writers, who 1, are not vouch'd for, 2 are unknown to us, 3 do not claim to have been inspired, 4 whose original writings in those ages of legends & myths, may have been enlarged, and supernaturalized.

We are not bound to believe in modern miracles, on the mere testimony of well-known credible men. Why must we believe in ancient miracles, on the doubtful writings, of a few unknown writers, who wrote from hearsay, 50 or more years, after the death of Jesus?

Rochester Geo. U.S. Mich. 1896

Yrs truly J.H. Mayo.

Sir J. H. Dawson Montreal - Canada.

Dear Sir, The enclosed paragraph has been handed to me to bring me under the influence of your great name and intellect. Not only the exegetical critics, but the incautious, or unconscious admissions of hundreds of theologians, have inclined me to unbelief. One says "no man has a right to believe that God has written to him, without unmistakable infallible proof." And then he sets forth - external proofs, which a greater Professor says, are not evidences to the world that cannot see them, nor perceive them; that a world of men are not bound to accept the faith and testimony of other men, as proof, for it would prove too much, and that the only evidence of the Bible's inspiration, producible & verifiable, is Self-evidence" These men represent two masses of authority, who doubt each other's propositions. Others differ about the nature, and extent, and processes of inspiration, leaving it doubtful if they know what inspiration was. Others say that inspiration inhered in the man, the speaker, the writer, as the prophets, but if a prophet was not known, his writings would convey no authority. But no man seems to know who wrote the Bible, it is said that - such a name - probably wrote this or the other book of it. Probability, uncertainty, seems to be an element that pervades it all, & leaves the authority uncertain. Not one part of it can be reduced to a perfect logical syllogism, each premise and conclusion of which is self-evident. You say "Believers - have an evidence within, even the Spirit of God." Can that be demonstrated? or is it a mere faith? Is this a satisfactory

J. H. Dawson
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at post 142
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