

argue with him that it was not a "\_\_\_\_\_ " watch? Of course it might be a counterfeit — such things do happen — but certainly the normal course would be for it to be the genuine article.

So it is with the Bible. We have a book in our hands that purports to be from God. It bears His name as author. The logical thing to do is to accept the claim that it makes, and to proceed on that basis. If the claim can be shown to be counterfeit or artificial, it must be reconsidered. But until that happens, let us accept it on the basis on which it presents itself.

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But does not every religious work claim the same thing? Generally not. The religious works of various faiths profess to contain statements that are divine in wisdom, but they make no plenary cases for themselves (as the Bible does for itself) as being the infallible truth of God. Generally the literature that approximates Scripture with regard to its claim for divine origin, comes from Christian cultic bodies. The sectarian literature, for example, usually claims to be given from God. Semi-Christian bodies imitate Christianity in this regard. But even these do not carry the "thus saith the Lord" concept of the sacred Scriptures. They base their claims on revelations by angels and visions. The Scripture is much more emphatic in bearing the name of Almighty God.

But suppose we have something before us that does not have the maker's name — something like a painting. Imagine that it is a painting that is highly treasured, but which the artist has not signed. By studying that painting's style and design, art scholars ascertain which artist produced it. So keen is their discernment that they are able to distinguish between the most clever frauds and the genuine article. To the layman it is incredible that an art expert could determine an author's