

men inspired of God for the purpose, intended to be authoritative, these men give the books to the people, as God's inspired word, they accept it as such. There may be other false books written, which some people may think are part of God's Word, but in the process of two or three or at most four centuries, the people of God, to whom they are written, will come to a unanimity as to what the correct books are, without the action of any council, without any one individual having any decisive influence in it, but simply the providence of God, the Spirit of God working through the people of God coming to a similar unanimity. If that should take place in the ...6... Does the Lord in setting the seal of His approval upon the conclusion of a similar process regarding the O. T., authenticate in advance a similar process for the N. T.? Now if it does, then today we have a Bible, here is the English Bible, and this Bible contains these thirty-nine books of the O.T. These books were written by men inspired of God for the purpose, and intended to be authoritative. We can't get abck to the times, and examine who each of these men were. Some of them we don't even know who wrote them. We don't know who....6½... but these books were given by men inspired of God for the purpose, the people of God accepted them as such, within a period of two or three or four centuries at the most, after the writing of the last book, the people of God came to a unanimity that these are the books, and no others. Jesus set the seal of His approval upon the conclusion of this process, of the O. T., and he authenticated in advance the possibility that a similar process might take place regarding the N. T., and a similar process did take place regarding the N. T. N. T. books were written by men inspired of God for the purpose, intended to be authoritative. People accepted them as such. One church got some, and they passed them on to others, and the other church passed some to them. There were other books circulated which some people thought were authoritative, but which most very soon recognized were not. In the providence of God within two or three centuries after the writing of the last book of the N. T. the whole Christian church was united in believing that these twenty-seven books are the authoritative books of the N. T. No council acted upon it. When a council acted, it was to reaffirm what the church believed, not to make a decision. No council voted on individual books, and made any deci-