

of God. We find at the time of Christ, that the Jews had absolute unanimity as to which books were included in this category. There is no evidence that any group of the Jews of any size held a different view ~~than~~ than the other ~~Jews~~ ^{Jews} as to which books were included in the Word of God. About 90 A.D., a Jew named Josephus, who had had every opportunity to become acquainted with the different groups of his countrymen, and to know their various views, writing in a book which was intended to defend the Jews against attacks made upon them by their enemies, made the statement that the Jews had only one particular group of books which they considered to be divine, and that every Jew from his birth would gladly die for it, and that no one would add anything to ^{it} ~~them~~ or take anything from ^{it} ~~them~~. This is a clear evidence of that which we could find aptly substantiated in other ways, that the Jews, by this time and possibly a long time before, had come to an absolute unanimity of opinion as to which were the books of the Bible, so that no important group of them held a different view. God gave the books of the Old Testament to the people of God, the Jews, and then He caused them, within a few centuries, to reach a unanimity of opinion as to which books were contained in it. This is then a process in God's providence. There may have been discussion; there may have been people who thought some of the books of the false prophets belonged in the Scripture; there may have been others who questioned some of the books that were there. We have no evidence about this. We know, however, that ^{by} ~~at~~ the time of Christ and, doubtless, some centuries before, the unanimity of opinion had been reached on this point as to which books were the ~~inspired~~ inspired Word of God.

Now comes that which is vital for the Christian. Our authority, of course, comes from the Lord, Jesus Christ. He is God incarnate in human flesh. He knew everything; ~~What He said~~ // ~~He says~~ // What He said, must of necessity be true. We find Him, in speaking with the Jews, referring to the books of the Old Testament as the Scripture or the Holy Scripture, referring to them as the Word of God, giving as a conclusive argument on any point, a word from the Old Testament. The apostles also took this view. They set the seal of their approval upon the attitude of the Jews toward the books of the Old Testament, and referred to the collection of the books as ~~the~~