

centuries before there was a unanimity of opinion in the church about this. The Christian church has had large sections which differed as to which ~~were~~ were the correct books of the Old Testament. Since 1546, the Roman Catholic church holds that there are nine books in the Old Testament which Protestants do not recognize as part of it. These differences regarding the Old Testament are not vital, because the Old Testament was given to the ~~the~~ people of God in Old Testament days, and they reached a unanimity, and our Lord Jesus Christ approved of them. The New Testament was given to the Christian church, the people of God in New Testament times. Within a few centuries a unanimity was reached by all sections of the Christian church as to the books of the New Testament. For about 1500 years now, there has been no portion of the Christian church of any size or importance, which has maintained that any book belongs in the New Testament which the rest did not accept, or excluded any books from the New Testament which the rest excluded.

God brought ~~this~~ ^{about} this unanimity of opinion in the Christian church as to the books which had been given to it by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, written by men who were inspired of God for the purpose, and ~~it~~ intended to be authoritative. Christ validated this process in the case of the Old Testament. It seems reasonable to suppose that He similarly validated it in advance in the case of the New Testament.

If it were left to us to say that the books are inspired because ~~of~~ some ~~if~~ individual decided this to be the case, we might wonder where this man got his authority, and whether or not he might be mistaken. If it were the action of a council, we might wonder whether or not the majority was always right, and whether in this case, the individuals might have erred. If it depended on our knowing that they were written by prophets or by apostles, we would then be in a great difficulty, when we have books concerning which we do not know who wrote them. We would have to make assumption in the case of others, that they were written on the authority of a prophet or an apostle, without any particular evidence of that ~~the~~ fact. We do not have to rely upon any such attitudes as these. We accept the books of the Old Testament because Jesus Christ set the seal of His approval to the process by which the people of God reached a unanimity as to which were the correct books in the Old Testament, and we find the people of God in the Christian church reaching the same unanimity