

Scriptures which were able to make him wise unto salvation. They are given by inspiration of God and so are consequential as authoritative and separate from all other works. The apostles refer to the O.T. often and in Luke the Lord Jesus tells them how slow of heart they are to believe all that the prophets and law entailed. Mk.7:13--Christ called on the people to study the O.T. Jesus also and Paul refer often to what the Jews themselves believed concerning the Old Testament. Christ did set His seal on what they believed concerning what books should be in the canon of the O.T.

D. What was the Jewish idea of the Canon?

1. Josephus is the best authority on this. He was a Jew of good family and good education. He was well trained and educated with many types of Jews and had contacts with all kinds of Jews. When the time came for revolt he was one of the generals--Titus took a fancy to the man and kept him as prisoner but got a lot of contact with him. Josephus then went to Rome and enjoyed the favor of Titus when he became emperor and enjoy that privilege. There in Rome he found it quite interesting to try and show the people there the good things about his nation and so he wrote the book--Antiquities of the Jews--he studied the O.T. thoroughly and other traditions and where he had evidence he put it down and when he couldn't find evidence he would let his imagination run a little. He also wrote another book which is the Jewish Wars--he tells about Jerusalem before the destruction and afterward. Then about 100 A.D. there was a great Grammarian living in Alexandria who wrote much against the Jews. Josephus in Rome wrote a book, Against Appian in which he pleads the case of the Jews. He shows what the true facts are about the Jews--it might be conceivable that he would slip up somewhat in a small way but surely there would be no excess errors since he was quite honest and it would just further the cause of the enemy of the Jews if he told untruths about ~~ix~~ them. He cautiously sets down that which he feels will help his people along. It would actually show the correct situation at that time. Note in this last book mention, Book I, Section 8--the Jews have a collection of books which are their supreme ~~authoritative~~ authority which are altogether different from the rest of the books of the Jews--"We have only 22 books which are thought to be divine and of these five of them are the books of Moses. From then on others wrote down 13 other books and the remaining 4 books contain counsels of God for men for the conduct of life. No one has dared to add anything nor take anything from this special collection of books. There are many other books but these are the ones which the Jews consider as divine, and for the Jews these books were considered as a canon and a rule for their lives