

them directions as to the oversight of the various churches. Finally, the apostle John ~~WXX~~ wrote the book of Revelation to give us the vision that God gave him of God's wonderful plan for the future of His people.

It was easy for the people to see the need of these books explaining God's will for them for they already had the O. T., which the Jews had for many centuries accepted as God's inspired Word and free from error.

It is important that we understand that in the writing of these books the Holy Spirit led and directed. He did not dictate the words to these disciples for we have a great difference in their styles. When, Paul, Peter, James, and John write you have a style that is different from each of the other. The personality of the individual writer shows, but the Holy Spirit led them as to what they should include and was constantly active keeping them from error, and protecting the words from mistake so that the final product could be a true revelation of the mind of God.

During the first fifty years after the death of Christ, the Holy Spirit inspired the writers so as to write down the words that He wished to have in our N. T. Just how sure can we be that we have the correct words of this New Testament? How accurately has it been transmitted to us? What manuscripts of it are available for us to study? These are questions that we will take up in succeeding chapters.

III. The manuscripts available when printing began.