

deny the claims of both. Thus many shades of opinion as to which books were inspired might be expected to develop.

The fact that there is no disagreement among the Mohammedans as to what belongs in the Koran, is no objection to this expectation, since the entire Koran was composed by one man and he was the recognized leader of the entire Islamic movement. The case of the Old Testament is entirely different, for the books were written by more than a score of different writers, and included men from many different social classes, with all sorts of diverse backgrounds. It would not have been at all strange if the Jews at the time of Christ had been divided into several groups, each of which considered a different selection of books to be inspired.

This, however, did not occur. Within a very few centuries after the last book in our Old Testament was written the entire Jewish nation was unanimous in accepting every one of its books as canonical and in rejecting as false the claims of any other book to similar recognition.

That unanimity should thus have been reached is little short of a miracle. There is absolutely no evidence that this result was due to the influence of a particular leader, or that it resulted from the decision of any council. Neither is there any reason to believe that God gave a direct revelation on the matter, precisely specifying the correct books. Nevertheless it would seem that acceptance of certain books gradually spread to larger and larger groups, along with a gradually spreading rejection of other books, until within a few centuries after the writing of the last book of the Old Testament the entire nation accepted all the correct books and rejected all the false ones. The achievement of unanimity on such a matter in such a way would be difficult to parallel anywhere else. It would be hard to believe that it was purely a result of chance, and yet one would hesitate to say that the Holy Spirit had providentially led the people of God to this result if there were no further divine attestation. Such attestation was very clearly given by the Lord Jesus Christ. He set the seal of His approval on the