

books that the Jews accepted, and affirmed that these books are indeed the very Word of God.

6. Since it is on the authority of Christ that we believe that the result of this process is correct, His authority authenticates not only the result, but also the process.

Apart from the authority of Christ we could not be at all sure that any particular group of Jews, or all Jews together, were correct in their decision as to which books had been inspired of God. Because the Lord Jesus Christ indicated that He believed in the correctness of the conclusion to which the people of God had unanimously come within a very few centuries after the writing of the last book of the Old Testament, we also must believe that the Holy Spirit providentially guided the process by which these books became known to and accepted by wider and wider circles of Jews, until the entire nation had accepted the correct books and had discarded those books which were not really inspired.

7. The Lord Jesus Christ gave us reason to expect that a New Testament would also be written.

Jesus said: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth . . ." (John 16:12-13a). Thus Jesus made it clear that the disciples were to expect further dependable revelations from God. He also said: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). These verses show, not only that further truth would be revealed to the disciples after Jesus' death, but also that what He had already told them would be made available to them in a form that would be free from error.

It is easy to see how necessary this was. The Gospels tell us that on several occasions Jesus predicted His death and resurrection (e.g. Matthew 16:21). Yet when these events took place the disciples had no expectation of them, and found it