

the Court History of David) a "Word of God"? If it is the consensus of the body of believers which finally determines what books shall be included in the Bible, can we say anything about the historical processes? And is it the very complexity and obscurity of such historical processes which lead one to ascribe the final product as divine? If Jesus' statement about the divinity of the OT writings is the criterion, this would seem to lead us back to His presumed uniqueness. If he did not spend much time elaborating canons of interpretation, disputing such matters as authorship and time of writing, one might question the appropriateness of his remarks about the canon.

Many of such historical problems seem to involve primarily the conjunction of human and divine actions, although natural events (such as earthquakes, rats, and lice) also enter into historical processes. How can God express Himself through finite, conditioned human beings and communities? For instance, how does God mobilize a nation such as Assyria to punish Israel; and how does any human being interpret Assyria's evident conquest of Israel as a divine action? Human beings are quite capable of enquiring after divine causation (e.g. Egypt, Babylonia, etc.), but how does one know that a certain historical event is divine?