

No seizeable part of the people of God to whom God gave the Old Testament have ever strongly urged the addition of any book to the Old Testament or the deletion of any book from it. Groups of Jews have argued strenuously over many other matters but not over this one.

Having set this example God proceeded to work a similar miracle--His marvelous work of providence on the New Testament. Within 400 years after the writing of the last book of the New Testament the Christians, the people of God to whom the New Testament was given, were unanimously agreed as to what were the books of the New Testament. Since that time there has been no sizeable group of orthodox Christians who have strongly urged subtracting any book or adding any book to the group of books that Christians have unanimously accepted as the actual books that God inspired. People divide up in many ways over many different matters, but on this there is unity and agreement among the people of God.

It is true that there have been Christian groups who have wished to add books to the Old Testament but the Old Testament was not given to the Christians in the first place but to the Jews, and the Christians received it as a unit from the Jews. This has always been recognized by the overwhelming majority of Christians. Thus there are these three great miracles; the miracle of revelation; the miracle of inspiration; the miracle of the unanimous acceptance of the canon. To this we should add two great works of providence. The first of these is the preservation of the manuscripts. Attempts have been made to destroy the Bible. ~~But~~ God in His providence has marvelously preserved the Scripture. Every effort has been made to destroy it, but these have not succeeded. Hundreds of manuscripts have been preserved from ancient times. We can come very close to the precise writing of the original Scripture.

Personally I believe that God intentionally allowed small errors of copying to come in as a warning to us that we should not take one verse and try to squeeze it to the very utmost. We should recognize that human language