

He criticized them for making the Word of God of no effect through their tradition. He criticized them for adding to God's Word. He criticized them for failing to fully follow the Word of God. He said to the apostles - Ye fools, and slow of heart, not to believe all that the prophets have spoken. He expected that every word of everything that had been given as the inspired Word of God would be accepted in full. But there is never a trace of any difference between Christ and the Apostles and the Jews as to what the authoritative books were. That canon which had been given to the Jews gradually collected and received from the hands of the authors as the inspired Word of God and upon which all the Jews were agreed within a few centuries after the time when the last book was written. This collection set the seal of His approval upon as the Word of God. Now today all the Jews might change their attitude. So far as I know there is no group of Jews of any size that said These particular books are not inspired but the rest are or that said these are inspired and certain additional ones are. So far as I know all Jews that believe in inspiration at all believe that these are the inspired books, every one of these and no other. Even if it didn't, it would not particularly affect the matter, Christ set the seal of His approval upon that unanimity which was reached within a few centuries after the time of the writing of the last book. Now, of course, the Christians received the Bible from the Jews. The Jews had the O.T., God gave it to them, the Christians received it from them. Now the Christians now have this from the Jews and they now have an additional section and in this additional section we find exactly the same process was repeated. The books were written, some by Peter, some by John, some by Paul, some by Mark; but all these books written by these different men were received by the church as the inspired Word of God. At least individuals received them as such, they treated them as such, they passed them on to others as such. Gradually in different churches collections of these different N.T. books were gathered together. IN the course of a few centuries you find that all the churches were agreed. There were some on which there was a certain amount of doubt for a time, but all that doubt disappeared and within a few centuries after the writing of the last book of the O.T. you have a unanimity of the Christian Church as to which are the inspired books. This did not come through the vote of any council, there is no evidence of any council at which they said - Shall we consider this inspired or not - there is no evidence of any such council taking a majority vote on the books of the N.T. There is no evidence of any one individual who decided the matter. It is in the Providence of God among