

^{that} all of these books were inspired, that these were the books which God had given them, and that there were no others, and this belief you might say, that is a historical process which is very queer. How can we believe they were right unless we can go back ~~through~~ and prove who wrote these books and find out that the spirit of God actually led them? How can we take these books as ^{an} authoritative, objective standard, which we can say, are these books upon which our faith is to be built, and know that exactly these are and no others? Here is the book of Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiasticus in the Apocrypha, a pious book, a book in which a man goes over the wonderful works of God, and praises God for them, and as you read it it is like reading Pilgrim's Progress. Your faith is strengthened, your belief in God is enlarged. You feel this is a wonderful inspired book. That is Ecclesiasticus, which is not in the Canon, and the Jews did not accept it as an authoritative or an inspired book. And then you take the book of Ecclesiastes, similar to the name of Ecclesiasticus, and is about as different from it as a book could possibly be, and you could take verses out of Ecclesiastes which tells you, Whatever your hand tries to do, do with all your might, why, because there is no in the grave, to which you go, but that is not true. We don't believe that. That is the thought of the natural man under the sun. He says in making of books there is no end. It says, everything is vanity, vanity, all things are vanity. What is the use of it. It presents you the tired attitude of man under the sun. It gives you a true picture of this attitude on the part of man. It is as different a book as you could imagine from Ecclesiasticus. You take any ~~two~~ two men, anywhere that are not cynical, utterly cynical, and you give them the book of Ecclesiastes, and the book of Ecclesiasticus, and you say, which of these books warms your soul, and makes you feel it is a truly religious book, and a helpful book, and they would say, Ecclesiasticus. And you say, do you mean this book of Ecclesiastes is a divine book? Well, they say there are a lot of statements that don't sound divine at all. If you interpret these in the light of the context you could figure out a reason why this book is given, as a divine presentation of the wisdom of ~~man~~ man under the sun, showing that it ends up, all of it is vanity, there is not conclusion, the only true conclusion is what you find is to look to God and obey