

they would be in more favor with the leaders of the people than he was. How does it come that we have Jeremiah's book as part of the Bible, and nothing by any of them?

There is an explanation that is often suggested, that seems at first sight to solve the problem. However, on closer examination, it does not prove altogether satisfactory. This explanation is that the Old Testament ^{books} were written by prophets and the New Testament books by apostles, and that whatever was written by an apostle or by a prophet was true and authoritative for the church. This does not solve the problem because we know of ~~an~~ many prophets and many apostles who did not write anything that is included in the Bible, and there are many books in the Bible of which it cannot be proved were written by prophets or by apostles. Who can prove that Joshua was written by a prophet, or the books of Kings, or Chronicles, or Esther, or any one of a number of others? Concerning many of them, we do not know who wrote them. We believe that they came from God, and that He intended that they be authoritative regardless of who the writer was.

In the New Testament, nobody knows with any certainty who wrote the book of Hebrews, yet the Christian church through the ages has always accepted it as part of the Word of God and authoritative. Its authority does not depend upon our knowing who wrote it. It depends upon our believing that, whoever wrote it received it from God and was led of the Holy Spirit in his writing. It was given by the writer to the church as part of the inspired Word of God and intended to be authoritative.

Right here, someone may ask, "Were not all of the apostles inspired?" It is necessary to pause here to note that the word "inspiration" is an English word which is used in many different senses. In order to understand any scientific matter, it is necessary that we clearly define the terms which we are going to use, and do not be confused by the fact that many times the word is used in different meanings. The word "inspiration", simple means the "drawing in of breath". It is a simple English term which has come to be used figuratively for a good many different things. Thus, we stand on a mountain-top and see a grand view, and we say that we feel inspired, or have an inspiration. We mean that we are lifted up and feel an enthusiasm within ourselves. Again, we read something from a beautiful poem, and we say we have an inspira-