

The fact that these books have gotten into the Canon is that people knew that these were the books of authority direct from God. When one would read the terrific denunciations on the people of God in Jeremiah and Ezekiel, they could say, well, that has not special message for me and immediately throw it away--but reading it as God's Word he would mean a great deal because it would show him the picture of his character and life and would show me what He wants me to do. The Canon as a result that they are authoritative in nature causes them to have religious value. Another suggestion that is made is that the Jews got together and said that they were going to make these books their authority--a specific canonization by the gathering together of the people. ILL. of students this summer who thought a council had decided what books should be in the canon but of course such never was the case at any time. The Knights of Columbus tell us that the Bible is the creation of the church but that is not so--there is no evidence of any council at any time which said these books we'll make into the Canon and these books we'll leave out. The Jews had a unanimity as to which books belonged in the O.T. and the Christians had a unanimity as to what books belonged in the N.T., not because there ever was a council that said we will select these books but because the people took it direct from the man who wrote it as the Word of God for them. Jeremiaiah and Moses' friends all accepted what they said in their books were the Word of God. We have no evidence to prove Esther and Job as to how these books got into the Canon but we do know the Lord Jesus set His seal of approval on the books that the Jews held as Canonical. It is harder to prove the O.T. as a Canon than the New. Christ gives the word to the ~~disciples~~ Disciples that other words about Christ he would bring to their remembrance so we would expect those books to come along and just as in the O.T. God gave this unanimity about the books so in the N.T. it wasn't long before there was perfect unanimity about these books and it isn't difficult to believe that these books which we have in the N.T. as the Word of God. There is held this theory in wide circles that a group of people got together to canonize the books. The advocates for this theory turn to II Kings 22-23 to prove their view--then the Jews, they say took this book to make it an authority for them. Then a few centuries later the Jews decided to make a larger canon--first they took only the book of Deuteronomy but later they decided to take all the books of Moses--Cf. Neh. 8 and then at a later time they added thereto the books of the prophets and then along came the books of the Hagiographa which they added last of all.