

is quite clear that He expected that those to whom He spoke would understand exactly what He meant. The way in which He spoke of the Old Testament leaves no doubt that He considered it as a fixed unit.

The same is true of the apostles. Peter speaks of the Word of God as a definite unit. Paul describes it as "the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation," indicating that by the term "holy scriptures" he means the books that Timothy has known from his youth. Paul says that each of these books is "given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:15-16).

4. The Jews of Christ's day were unanimous in their agreement as to which books were inspired.

The words used by Christ and the apostles in reference to the Old Testament would be strange indeed if it could be shown that the Jews of that day were actually in doubt as to what books belonged in the Old Testament. The evidence is clear that there was no such doubt. It is made absolute when we read the words of Josephus in a book written to defend his people against anti-Semitic attacks and therefore intended to be widely distributed. Josephus had carefully investigated many different groups of Jews in his early days. Yet he speaks positively of the fact that these specific books were accepted by all Jews as commands of God, and that no Jew would willingly add anything to them or take anything from them (Contra Apionem, I,8).

There is abundant evidence that the Jews in the first century hotly disputed many questions. The Talmud gives evidence of some discussion as to whether certain books of the Old Testament were inspired. Yet examination of the evidence for these disputes shows that actually what they amount to was a discussion of the ways to defend these books from attack. There is no evidence of any Jewish suggestion in the first century that a book which is not now contained in our Old Testament might really belong there. The way in which the discussions were carried on