

valuable than Old Testament genealogies of obscure names. Of course, *all* of Scripture is profitable and valuable, but some Scriptures are more valuable than others. And it is at that point that we may properly speak of degrees of value, but not degrees of inspiration.

Objection 4: "Why are some of the writings of the prophets and apostles not included in Scripture?"

Those extra-biblical writings referred to by biblical writers, and those which commonly fall into the categories called "apocrypha" and "pseudepigrapha" were not recognized by the Jews as belonging to the Old Testament. or by Christians as belonging to the New. Jesus placed His stamp of approval upon the Jews' three-fold division of the Old Testament, and upon the books recognized by them as Scripture, both by quoting from these books, and by quoting no other books as Scripture or as authoritative. The books which the Holy Spirit inspired were recognized by godly men to be Scripture; other books were not so recognized, and were not included in Scripture.

Objection 5: "Why are there duplicate sections in Scripture? Why are whole passages repeated?"

There is no question that this is occasionally the case. And all of them are not there as duplicates simply for emphasis, although this may sometimes be true. Sometimes a passage is found in a historical setting, as for example. David's song in 2 Samuel 22, following his deliverance by the Lord from the hand of all his enemies, including Saul. Then David's song is duplicated in Psalm 18. But what could be more natural than to find David's song in its proper historical setting, and then to find it again in a collection of songs in one scroll, conveniently grouped with the other songs that formed the sacred hymnal of Israel? The two accounts are obviously for different purposes! Another substantial case of duplication occurs in 2 Kings 18:13-20:19 and Isaiah 36-39, but again the accounts serve different purposes. In 2 Kings, Isaiah's narrative forms part of the history of Judah. In his own book Isaiah's narrative is included as an illustrative appendix to his earlier prophecies, to show that just as predictions related to the near future had been fulfilled, so God's people could have confidence that predictions related to the distant future would also be fulfilled.