

Scriptures; of course they could not have done this had they been all consumed. (Acts xvii. 11.)

**P.** You receive the whole word of God as your rule of faith?

**M.** Yes, we have already told you that we receive the whole word of God as the rule, both of our faith and practice.

**P.** Therefore your rule of faith is incomplete, as many of the books have been lost. In Numb. xxi. 14, the book of the wars of the Lord is spoken of. At Joshua x. 13, the book of Jasher is mentioned. In 2nd Samuel i. 18, of the book of the Acts of Solomon: Several other books are also mentioned, such as those of Nathan the Prophet, of Gad, the Seer of Iddo and of Ahijah. In the New Testament, an epistle to the Laodiceans, and a 3rd to the Corinthians, are named. All these books being lost, your rule of faith is not complete, inasmuch as you have not the whole word of God.

**M.** Our last answer should have been sufficient, at least with respect to the Old Testament, as we have shewn that Ezra, under the inspiration of God, had collected and united in one canon all the inspired books. I will, however, enter more fully into the subject, in order to answer this objection: and beg to say, that several of the books supposed to have been lost, are not so in reality. It is highly probable that what the Jews say upon the subject is true, namely, that Nathan wrote from the 20th to the 24th Ch. of the 1st Book of Samuel, and that Ahijah, Iddo and the other Prophets wrote the Books of the Kings: and in addition, as it cannot be denied that there were records and chronicles among the Jews embodying at full length the history of that people, with them we are justified in classing these three, namely, the Book of Jasher, that of the wars of the Lord, and that of the Acts of Solomon, which were not inspired and never formed part of the Holy Scriptures.

Respecting the two epistles to the Laodiceans, and to the Corinthians mentioned in the New Testament, I answer, it cannot be proved that they ever existed; that of the Laodiceans, is nothing more than a letter from that church to St.

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