

The Holy Scriptures or the whole Bible, as Protestants now profess to have them, have not, in all times of the past, been a "sufficient" rule of faith for all men, and all men could not have been held responsible for searching them—(my first question)—and why? Because first, there was a time when the *whole* Bible did not exist—was not complete—and, therefore, during that time the Rev. Mr. Stephenson's, or the Protestant rule of faith,—the Holy Scriptures as Protestants now profess to have them—could not be a "sufficient" rule of faith; for if they could, then the New Testament is not an essential part of the rule of faith, and Protestants deny this. Well, then, St. Mathew—the first of the apostles who wrote anything of the New Testament—did not write his Gospel until about seven years after the ascension of Christ into Heaven; therefore, for seven years, the chief part of the Protestant rule of faith had no existence. St. Mark wrote his Gospel about ten years after Christ had left the world; St. Luke about twenty-five years, and St. John did not write anything until about sixty-three years after Christ's ascension. Therefore, for ten, for twenty-five, for sixty-three years, the Protestant rule of faith—the whole Bible—was incomplete and consequently it could not be looked upon as a "sufficient" rule. It was only about the year sixty-five that St. John wrote the last part of the New Testament; and therefore it was not until that year that Mr. Stephenson's rule of faith—the Holy Scriptures, or *whole* Bible—became complete and could be regarded in any light, as a "sufficient" rule.

But after that period, was Mr. Stephenson's rule a sufficient rule? It was not; and why? Because before it, under any possibility, could become a sufficient rule, and before Christ could hold any man responsible for searching it—the Bible, the *whole* Bible,—it was strictly necessary that the inspired Gospels and Epistles should have been well known throughout the Christian world from the many spurious Gospels and Epistles then extant, and that all the books composing it should have been gathered into some convenient form, that people, without great trouble or difficulty, might be able to consult or search them. Was this the case? Every student of history knows it was not. It was not until over three hundred years had elapsed, that it was definitely known what books or writings really constituted the Bible. In some places the spurious Gospels and Epistles were looked upon as inspired, while in other places the inspired writings were regarded as spurious. And, thus it was, that people generally did not know, and could not know, for over three hundred years, what books or writings constituted the Bible, the whole Bible or Protestant rule of faith; and not knowing this, they could not, of course, consult or search it; and not being able to consult or search it, they could not learn from it; and not being able to learn from it, they could not know what they ever required to believe; and not being able to know what they were required to believe, they could not believe; and