

under the term "antilegomena". And there were many books favored by some and not accepted by the whole. We think the grounds of inspiration were dependent on the true prophetic character after the pattern of Old Testament acceptance and the tests of truth proposed in Deuteronomy 13-18.

External Problems

The earliest, of course, was persecution and this would be followed in the next century by heavy philosophical ideas that await better description at that time. But two major moves must be noted at this point and they will be symptomatic of several that arise later as well.

1) Marcion

We have no fixed dates on his life but the period of activity is the first half of the second century. He may well have been the first extensive cult-heretic. Apparently he was a person of wealth who fostered a teaching that essentially made Christianity the antithesis to Judaism in content as well as in form. Excommunication came about 144 AD. He championed Paul and his letters (but did not receive Hebrews nor the pastorals) and the Gospel of Luke. His abbreviated canon, therefore, served as an inspirational force to the developing of the full "Christian" canon. He denied validity to the Old Testament Scriptures and seems to have suggested the God of the New Testament to be a totally different God. We have only quotes from his writings (as Athanasius, Irenaeus, et al dispute his teachings) but some of his notes prepared for the Pauline epistles (introductory stuff) was reported as being accepted in orthodox literature and incorporated, in part, with the headings of the Latin Bible. TWT is not sure how far this is accurate. His influence is very pronounced and the amount of literature written against him is a fair indication of the importance his teachings held in the rim of the Christian community.

2) Cerinthus

Living in the latter part of the first and early part of the second centuries, Cerinthus was a Gnostic forerunner, so to speak, and apparently attached to an Ebionite community. He seems to have taught that Jesus was a representative man selected by Jehovah to fulfill the giving of a message releasing