

The Claims of Scripture

Did Bible writers claim they were writing a message revealed from God Himself to man? Did they claim to write an infallible standard of religious authority for people to obey? Do they claim that people of future generations should study their writings to learn God's commandments?

I. The Claims of the Old Testament Concerning Itself

A. The Writers Claimed to Write Commands Given Them by God.

Exodus 24:3,4 – Moses wrote in a book “all the words of the Lord” [Cf. verses 1-8.]

Deuteronomy 30:9,10 – God would bless the people “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law.”

Jeremiah 30:1-2 – Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

Expressions such as “Thus saith the Lord,” or “The word of the Lord came to me,” are found literally thousands of times in the Old Testament.

[Cf. Deuteronomy 31:9-13,24-29; 4:13; 5:22; 10:2,4; 9:10; 29:20,21,27; 27:1-8; Exodus 17:14 & 24:12; 34:1,27,28; 32:15,16; 31:18; Numbers 33:2; Jeremiah 36:2 (see chap. 36); 25:13; 51:60; Isa 30:8; Hab. 2:2; Nahum 1:1; 2 Chronicles 26:22; Joshua 24:26; 1 Samuel 10:25]

B. These Writings Should Serve as Authority for Future Generations.

Deuteronomy 31:24-29,9-13 – Moses' words were a law for the people.

Deuteronomy 17:15,18-20 – Future kings of Israel were to have a copy of the *law*.

The messages were written expressly so they would be preserved for people in the future.

[Psalm 102:18; Exodus 17:14; Deuteronomy 28-30; Isaiah 30:8]

C. Later Generations Did Use the Old Testament Writings as Authority.

Joshua 1:7,8 – Joshua was told to observe all the law written therein. (23:6).

2 Chronicles 34:1,14ff – Josiah used a copy of the law to restore the worship of God.

Nehemiah 8:1-9:3 – The returned captives restored God's service by the written laws.

To reject these claims is to say they are not *good* books at all, but are *false and misleading*. If they are wrong about this, how could we know they are right about anything?

[Nehemiah 13; Ezra 6:18; 7:10; 2 Kings 22,23; Daniel 9:2; 2 Chronicles 17:9; 2 Kings 17:37; Josh 8:30-35; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; 1 Chronicles 16:40; 2 Chronicles 23:18; 25:4; 30:5,18; 31:3,4; Ezra 3:2,4; Nehemiah 10:34ff; Daniel 9:11,13; Isaiah 34:16]

II. The Claims of the New Testament Concerning the Old Testament

By understanding how Jesus and faithful first-century men viewed and treated Old Testament Scripture, we can understand how we today should view and treat the completed Scriptures as we have them today.

A. The Attitude of Jesus toward the Old Testament Scriptures

Matthew 15:1-6 – Jesus quoted Old Testament Scripture as the command/word of God

Matthew 22:23-33 – The Sadducees were in error because they did not know Scriptures

John 10:35 – “The Scripture cannot be broken.”

Matthew 4:4,7,10 – When Jesus was tempted, He quoted Scripture

Luke 10:25-28 – When asked about God's commands, Jesus said to go to the Law

[Luke 16:29-31; 24:27,44-46; 3:4; 7:27; 18:31; 21:22; 22:37; 4:16-21; 2:23; John 5:39,45-47; 1:45; 6:44,45; 8:17ff; 2:22; 7:38; 13:18; 17:12; 19:24,28,36,37; 20:9; 12:14,16; 15:25; Matthew 26:24,31,54,56; 21:13,42-45; 15:7-9; 22:41-45; 24:15; 13:13-15; 5:17; 2:5; 11:10; 8:11ff]

B. The Attitude of Apostles and Other Prophets toward the Old Testament

2 Peter 1:20,21 – The Scriptures came by the will of God, not the will of man.

1 Corinthians 10:1-11 – Old Testament examples are written for our admonition

Acts 17:2,3 – Paul reasoned from the Scriptures to prove Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 2:24-36 – Peter said prophecies from David were fulfilled by Jesus

Acts 2:14ff – The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost fulfilled prophecy.

Acts 15:13-21 – Old Testament predicted Gentiles could be saved under to the gospel
Jesus and His apostles recognized that Old Testament Scriptures were a message revealed from God as a pattern for future generations. We should have the same attitude toward the completed Scriptures that they had toward the Old Testament Scriptures.

[Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 11:2,4,8,26; 15:4; 3:9-18; 10:11,13; 11:2-4; 1:1-4,17; 9:13,33; 14:11; 9:17; 12:19; 4:3,23,24; 15:25,26; 1 Corinthians 9:9,10; 15:1-4; 1:19,31; 3:19,20; 1 Timothy 5:18; Hebrews 1:5-14; 8:8-13; 10:7; James 2:8ff; 2 Corinthians 4:13; 8:15; 9:9; 1 Peter 1:16; James 2:23ff; 2 Peter 2:6-8; Acts 18:24,28; Galatians 3:8,10,13,22-25; 4:21-31; Acts 1:16,20; 8:32,35; Acts 7:42; 13:29,33; 2 Peter 1:19-21]

III. The Claims of the New Testament Concerning Itself

A. New Testament Writers Claimed Their Writings Are an Inspired Revelation of God's Will Just as the Old Testament Was.

1 Corinthians 14:37 – Paul claimed his writings are the commandments of the Lord

Ephesians 3:3-5 – Paul received his message from the Holy Spirit

1 Thessalonians 4:8 – The message was originated by God, not by men

2 Timothy 3:16,17 – All Scripture is inspired by God. It is profitable for teaching, reproof, instruction in righteousness and to provide us to all good works.

1 Timothy 5:18 – “Scripture” includes the Old Testament and a verse from Luke.

2 Peter 3:15,16 – Peter referred to Paul's epistles as Scripture

[2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 3:14; Revelation 1:11,19,9; 22:18,19; chap. 2,3; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5; Acts 15:22-29; 16:4,5; 1 Peter 5:12; 1 John 2:7-17,21,26; 2 John 5]

B. New Testament Writings Are a Pattern People Must Follow to Be Saved.

1 Corinthians 14:37 – They are the commandments of the Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 – They teach and instruct us and provide us to all good works

John 20:30,31 – They provide evidence so we can have eternal life through Jesus

1 John 1:1-4 – They were written so we might have fellowship with Jesus and the Father

[Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1ff; John 21:24,25; 19:35; 1 Timothy 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:13ff; 1 John 2:1-6; 5:13; 1 Corinthians 4:14; Jude 3; 2 Corinthians 2:3,4,9; 7:12; 13:10; Philippians 3:1; Galatians 1:20; 2 Thessalonians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 4:6]

C. New Testament Writings Were Intended to Benefit Future Generations, Even after the Deaths of the Writers.

2 Peter 3:15,16 – Peter and his readers were familiar with Paul's epistles

Colossians 4:16 – Paul's letter to Colosse should be read also to the church in Laodicea

Revelation 1:4,11 – The Revelation was addressed to seven different churches.

2 Peter 1:1 – Many epistles were written to Christians in general [Jude 1; Gal. 1:2; James 1:1]

2 Peter 1:12-15 – Peter wrote so people could remember the teaching after his death

[Cf. 3:1,2; Romans 15:15; Hebrews 12:25-28; 13:20]

Bible writers knew they wrote by direct guidance of God, an authoritative standard of divine authority. God intended these writings to serve as authority for all people, even in the future.

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