



Lecture # 10 Part 3

Supporting Claims for the Inspiration of the Old Testament

Not only does the Old Testament claim inspiration for itself, but that claim is overwhelmingly supported by the New Testament use of the Old Testament. A careful examination of the New Testament writings reveals that the whole Old Testament is substantiated in its claim to authenticity and authority by New Testament references to sections and books of the Old Testament.

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO THE OLD TESTAMENT AS A WHOLE

The New Testament has varied descriptions of the Old Testament as a whole. Each declares in its own way the divine origin of the entire canon of Hebrew Scriptures.

“SCRIPTURE”

The New Testament uses the term *Scripture* in a technical sense. It occurs some fifty times, and in most cases it refers unmistakably to the Old Testament as a whole. To first-century Christians, the word *Scripture* meant primarily the canon of the Old Testament, which is called “sacred” ([2 Timothy 3:15](#)) or “holy” ([Romans 1:2](#)).

[2 Timothy 3:15-16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[Romans 1:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

These they acknowledged to be “inspired” of God ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)) and the rule for faith and practice ([2 Timothy 3:17](#); cf. [Romans 15:4](#)).

[2 Timothy 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ All Scripture is (God-breathed) inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

[2 Timothy 3:17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

[Romans 15:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Several New Testament passages may be cited (italics added) to illustrate this point. (I have 12 points to make about this!)



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1. In [Matthew 21:42](#) Jesus charges the Pharisees saying, “**Did you never read in the Scriptures?**” The question implied that they were ignorant of their own sacred authority, the Old Testament.

[Matthew 21:42 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴² Jesus said to them, “**Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?**”

2. In [Matthew 22:29](#) Jesus answers the Sadducees in like manner, saying, “**You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God.**”

[Matthew 22:29 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, “**You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.**”

3. On the eve of His betrayal, in [Matthew 26:54, 56](#) Jesus refers to the Old Testament *Scriptures* as He says, “**But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.**”

[Matthew 26:54 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁴ “**How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?**”

[Matthew 26:56 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵⁶ “**But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets.**” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

4. Luke 24 is a crucial passage in the present discussion, for Jesus not only opened to the disciples “**the Scriptures**” ([v.32](#)), but the *Scriptures* are described as everything written about Christ “**in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms**” ([v.44](#)). Earlier in this same chapter, while relating Christ’s exposition of the Old Testament law and prophets, Luke called these “**all the Scriptures**” ([v.27](#)).

[Luke 24:32 \(NASB\)](#)

³² They said to one another, “**Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?**”

[Luke 24:44 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “**These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**”

[Luke 24:27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself **in all the Scriptures.**

5. [John 2:22](#) states that after Jesus was raised from the dead, the disciples “**believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.**”



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John 2:22 (NASB)

²² So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

6. In [John 5:39](#) Jesus says of the Jews: “You search the Scriptures ... it is these that bear witness to Me.”

John 5:39 (NASB)

³⁹ “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

7. Several times in the gospel of John the word Scripture (singular) is used without citing a specific passage from the Old Testament, for example, “As the Scripture said” ([John 7:38](#); cf. [John 7:42](#); [John 19:36](#); [John 20:9](#)). That statement is somewhat akin to the current expression “The Bible says.”

John 7:38 (NASB)

³⁸ “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'”

John 7:42 (NASB)

⁴² “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

John 19:36 (NASB)

³⁶ For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN."

John 20:9 (NASB)

⁹ For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

8. In [John 10:35](#), another crucial passage, Jesus asserts that “Scripture cannot be broken,” showing that He considered the sacred Scriptures to be infallible.

John 10:35 (NASB)

³⁵ “If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

9. In [Acts](#), the words Scripture and Scriptures are used in the same manner as they were by Jesus. The apostle Paul “reasoned with them [the Jews] from the Scriptures” ([Acts 17:2](#)). The Bereans “examined the Scriptures daily” ([Acts 17:11](#)). Apollos, who was called “an elegant man ... mighty in the Scriptures,” ministered to the Jews, “demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ” ([Acts 18:24, 28](#)).

Acts 17:2 (NASB)

² And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,



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Acts 17:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Acts 18:24 (NASB)

²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

Acts 18:28 (NASB)

²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

10. Paul repeatedly used the word Scripture(s) to refer to the entire authoritative canon of the Old Testament. In Romans he wrote that God had promised the gospel “through His prophets in the holy Scriptures” (**Romans 1:2**).

Romans 1:2 (NASB)

² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

The expression “What does the Scripture say?” occurs several times in that same epistle (e.g., **Romans 4:3**; **Romans 9:17**; **Romans 10:11**).

Romans 4:3 (NASB)

³ For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Romans 9:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

Romans 10:11 (NASB)

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

In **Romans 15:4** Paul says that whatever was written in former days in the Scriptures was for the believer's admonition. He also spoke of “the *Scriptures* of the prophets” (**Romans 16:26**).

Romans 15:4 (NASB)

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 16:26 (NASB)

²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading to obedience of faith;*



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In his other epistles the apostle Paul said that Christ had died and arisen “**according to the Scriptures**” ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#));

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)

³ **For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

⁴ **and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,**