



Lecture # 11 Part 2

Supporting Claims for the Inspiration 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.

“IT IS WRITTEN”

Other captions closely allied to the word for **Scriptures** (*graphē*) are forms of the verb “to write” (*graphō*) and “it is written” (*gegraptai*). These expressions occur about **ninety-two times** in the New Testament in direct reference to the Old Testament. Although the vast majority of the references are to specific passages in the Old Testament, in terms of quotations or paraphrases, some of them are more general in scope, for example, **“How “is it written” of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?”** ([Mark 9:12](#)).

[Mark 9:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. **And yet how “is it written” of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt?**

Other examples of this usage would include,

[Mark 14:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ "**For the Son of Man is to go just as “it is written” of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.**"

[Luke 18:31 \(NASB\)](#)

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, **and all things “which are written” through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.**

and other statements such as those in [Luke 21:22](#); [Luke 24:44](#); [John 1:45](#).

[Luke 21:22 \(NASB\)](#)

²² because these are days of vengeance, **so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.**

[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.**"

[John 1:45 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴⁵ Philip *found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of



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whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Furthermore, all of these passages—whatever specific quotations or general references—imply an authoritative collection of writings. The expression **"it is written"** either directly implies or specifically **refers to the authoritative writings—sacred Scripture—of the Jewish Old Testament**. These references actually mean **"It is written in the writings [Scriptures]."**

"THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED"

Another expression that either implies or applies to the whole Old Testament is **"That it might be fulfilled."** This statement is found **thirty-three times in the New Testament**.

Like the clause **"It is written,"** this statement usually refers to a given passage in the Old Testament, but it is sometimes used in a general sense to apply to the entire Hebrew canon.

For example, in **Matthew 5:17** Jesus says, **"I did not come to abolish [the Law and the Prophets], but to fulfill."**

Matthew 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."

So it is in **Luke 24:44**, where Jesus says that the Law, Prophets and Psalms **"must be fulfilled,"** and in **Luke 21:22** He foretells the time **"all things which are written may be fulfilled."**

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 21:22 (NASB)

²² because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

In specific instances this introduction applies to Old Testament predictions that must come to pass. For example, **"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).**

Luke 4:21 (NASB)

²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."



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However, there are times when the expression refers to the preparatory nature of the whole Old Testament, which awaited completion in Christ (see [Matthew 5:17](#)).

[Matthew 5:17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

In the latter cases, there is a direct acknowledgement of the inspiration of the entire Old Testament, whereas in the former cases there is implicit recognition. In either case, the formula "**that it might be fulfilled**," as used in reference to the Old Testament, implies a direct acknowledgment of the prophetic nature of those writings; prophetic writings were considered to have been divine and authoritative (cf. [2 Peter 1:20–21](#)).

[2 Peter 1:20-21 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰ But know this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,**

²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**

“THE LAW”

Although the term *Law* was often reserved **for the first five books of the Hebrew canon** as a shortened form of the expression "**the law of Moses**," *it was sometimes used to refer* to the **Old Testament as a whole**. In fact, the use of the word for other than the Mosaic writings demonstrates that they too were considered to have equal authority with the great lawgiver's writings. [Matthew 5:18](#) uses "**Law**" in parallel reference to "**Law or the Prophets**" ([v.17](#)).

[Matthew 5:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the "**Law**" until all is accomplished.

[Matthew 5:17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the "**Law or the Prophets**"; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

In [John 10:34](#) Jesus says to the Jews, "**Has it not been written in your Law?**" just prior to quoting [Psalm 82:6](#).

[John 10:34 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"

[Psalm 82:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ I said, "You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.