



Lecture # 12 Part 1

Supporting Claims for the Inspiration of the Old Testament

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO SECTIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

As has been previously stated, the Hebrew Old Testament had two sections. A brief survey of the New Testament references to those sections further confirms the authoritative nature of the Old Testament.

REFERENCES TO BOTH SECTIONS

The whole Old Testament was divided into two basic sections: the Law and the Prophets. The phrase combining them, namely, “the Law and the Prophets” or “Moses and the Prophets,” occurs twelve times in the New Testament (see Matthew 5:17; Matthew 7:12; Matthew 11:13; Matthew 22:40; Luke 16:16, 29, 31; Luke 24:27; Acts 13:15; Acts 24:14; Acts 26:22; Romans 3:21).

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.

Matthew 7:12 (NASB)

¹² "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the “Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 11:13 (NASB)

¹³ "For all the “prophets and the Law” prophesied until John.

Matthew 22:40 (NASB)

⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend the whole “Law and the Prophets.”

Luke 16:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "“The Law and the Prophets” were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

Luke 16:29 (NASB)

²⁹ "But Abraham *said, 'They have “Moses and the Prophets”; let them hear them.'

Luke 16:31 (NASB)

³¹ "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to “Moses and the Prophets”, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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.



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Acts 13:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ After the reading of the “Law and the Prophets” the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

Acts 24:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the “Law and that is written in the Prophets.””

Acts 26:22 (NASB)

²² “So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what “the Prophets and Moses” said was going to take place;

Romans 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the “Law and the Prophets,”

That these two sections encompass the whole Old Testament is obvious from several passages. In Luke 24:27 Jesus referred to them as “all the Scriptures.”

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.

In Luke 16:16 Jesus said, “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John” (cf. Matthew 11:13), which engulfs the entire time span of God’s revelation through Old Testament prophets up to New Testament times.

Luke 16:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “The Law and the Prophets” were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

Matthew 11:13 (NASB)

¹³ For all the “prophets and the Law” prophesied until John.

Further, the other passages reveal that it was the foundation of moral and religious belief—that final authority to which appeal is made in all such matters. In brief, the two sections were the whole written Word of God for Jesus and the Jews of His day.

REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS

There are also numerous separate references to the Law and to the Prophets in the New Testament.

The Law

This section of the Old Testament is variously referred to as “the Law” (Matthew 12:5; Matthew 22:40);



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Matthew 12:5 (NASB)

⁵ "Or have you not read in "the Law," that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent?"

Matthew 22:40 (NASB)

⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend "the whole Law" and "the Prophets."

"the Law of Moses" (**Acts 13:39**; **Hebrews 10:28**);

Acts 13:39 (NASB)

³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through "the Law of Moses."

Hebrews 10:28 (NASB)

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside "the Law of Moses" dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

"Moses" (**2 Corinthians 3:15**);

2 Corinthians 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ But to this day whenever "Moses" is read, a veil lies over their heart;

"the book of Moses" (**Mark 12:26**); and

Mark 12:26 (NASB)

²⁶ "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in "the book of Moses," in the *passage* about *the burning bush*, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'?"

"the book of the law" (**Galatians 3:10**).

Galatians 3:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN "THE BOOK OF THE LAW," TO PERFORM THEM."

Each reference is a direct appeal to the divine authority of Moses' writings. That the New Testament considered the Law of Moses in its entirety to be the inspired Word of God is beyond question.

The Prophets

This section is usually called "the Prophets" (**Luke 18:31**; **John 1:45**), but it is also labeled "the Scriptures of the prophets" (**Matthew 26:56**) and "the book of the prophets" (**Acts 7:42**).



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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.

John 1:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵ Philip *found Nathanael and *said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* "the Prophets" wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

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.

Acts 7:42 (NASB)

⁴² "But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in "the book of the prophets," 'IT WAS NOT TO ME THAT YOU OFFERED VICTIMS AND SACRIFICES FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, WAS IT, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?'

In each case the reference is clearly to the books or writings of the prophets, and the appeal to them is to a group or collection of books that serve as a divine authority in matters moral and theological.

The most common description of the Old Testament is "the Law and the Prophets." Sometimes the New Testament refers to one or the other of these two sections. In any case, whether as a whole or individually, the Old Testament canon, with both of its sections and all of its books known and used by Jesus and the first century church, was considered to be the inspired Word of God.

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO THE INDIVIDUAL OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

There are many references to the authority of the Old Testament as a whole, but the particular references to the individual books and events of the Old Testament are even more illuminating in their bearing on both authority and authenticity, because of their specific and definitive nature. As a result, the following discussion will be treated under those two heads.

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES TO THE AUTHORITY OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Not only does the New Testament lend support to the claim of inspiration of the Old Testament as a whole, and for each of its two sections, but it provides a direct confirmation for the authority of most of the individual books of the Old Testament, as may be seen in the following sample survey.



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Genesis

The book of Genesis is authoritatively quoted by Jesus in [Matthew 19:4-5](#) (cf. [Genesis 1:27](#); [Genesis 2:24](#)) as He says, **“Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’?”** Here the assertion is made that God said what is written in Genesis.

[Matthew 19:4-5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴ And He answered and said, **“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?”**

[Genesis 1:27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**

[Genesis 2:24 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴ **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**

[Romans 4:3](#) refers to [Genesis 15:6](#) saying, **“For what does the Scripture say?”**

[Romans 4:3 \(NASB\)](#)

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

[Genesis 15:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ Then he believed in the LORD; and **“He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”**

Exodus

Jesus quotes [Exodus 16:4-5](#) in [John 6:31](#): **“As it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”**

[Exodus 16:4-5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, **“Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;”** and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

⁵ **“On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”**

[John 6:31 \(NASB\)](#)

³¹ **“Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; “as it is written,” HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.”**