



Lecture # 14 Part 2

Specific Claims for the Inspiration of the New Testament

THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS ARE SPIRIT-DIRECTED

The assumption that there is a valid connection between apostolic teaching and the New Testament writings is substantiated abundantly by both general and specific reference in the New Testament.

GENERAL CLAIM THAT THE WHOLE NEW TESTAMENT IS SPIRIT-DIRECTED

Outstanding passages

There are two outstanding passages that bear on this point and several others that lend their support. In [2 Peter 1:20–21](#) it is made clear that all *prophetic Scripture* comes as men are “**moved by the Holy Spirit.**”

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 reference here is to the Old Testament writings, which have already been seen to be the unbreakable oracles of God (cf. [Hebrews 5:12](#)).

Hebrews 5:12 (NASB)

¹² **For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.**

However, because New Testament writers also claimed to be giving prophetic utterances and writings, it follows that they considered their writings to be just as Spirit-directed as the Old Testament writings. Some New Testament writers make a direct claim that their writings are prophetic.

In [Revelation 22](#) John is classed with the Old Testament prophets ([v. 9](#)) and he concludes his own message by saying, “**I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book**” ([v. 18](#)).

Revelation 22:9 (NASB)

⁹ **But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours**



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and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

Revelation 22:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book.”

The apostle Paul identifies his revelation of the mystery of Christ as even superior to that of the Old Testament (cf. [Ephesians 3:5](#)).

Ephesians 3:5 (NASB)

⁵“which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit.”

The writer of [Hebrews 1:1](#) also identifies his book in line with the revelation through the Old Testament prophets, saying, “God ... spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets ... in these last days [He] has spoken to us in His Son” ([Hebrews 1:1](#)), to whose message one must take heed because “it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard [namely, the apostles], God also bearing witness ... by gifts of the Holy Spirit” ([Hebrews 2:3–4](#)).

Hebrews 1:1 (NASB)

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Hebrews 2:3-4 (NASB)

³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Hence, the ministry and writings of the New Testament writers are no less prophetic than those of their Old Testament counterparts.

New Testament books considered to be Scripture

Peter refers to Paul’s writings as “Scripture” ([2 Peter 3:16](#)), and [1 Timothy 5:18](#) quotes from [Luke 10:7](#) and [Deuteronomy 25:4](#) under the one phrase “for the Scripture says.”

2 Peter 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.



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1 Timothy 5:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ **For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."**

Luke 10:7 (NASB)

⁷ **"Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.**

Deuteronomy 25:4 (NASB)

⁴ **"You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.**

If the writings of Luke, who was not an apostle, are quoted as Scripture and Peter, who incidentally was rebuked by Paul ([Galatians 2:11](#)), considered Paul's books to be Scripture, then it is not difficult to conceive how the New Testament as a whole would be considered to be Scripture.

Galatians 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.**

And, because [2 Timothy 3:16](#) declares that "all Scripture is inspired by God," it follows that the New Testament as a whole is inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**

Specific claims

There are specific claims of apostolic authority in the New Testament that admit of a wide application. Paul told his sons in the faith to "prescribe" his teachings ([1 Timothy 4:11](#)) "with all authority" ([Titus 2:15](#)) and hinged his authority and even the veracity of the gospel itself on his apostleship ([Galatians 1:1, 12](#)).

1 Timothy 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ **Prescribe and teach these things.**

(Prescribe "parangellō" this is an imperative command)

Titus 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ **These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**

Galatians 1:1 (NASB)

¹ **Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),**

Galatians 1:12 (NASB)

¹² **For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**



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On another occasion Paul wrote, **“If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him”** ([2 Thessalonians 3:14](#)).

2 Thessalonians 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ **If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.**