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; Jos 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_.

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_

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Acts 15:13-21 – Old Testament predicted _Gentiles_ could be saved under 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.

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_.

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.


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_.

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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