

I. Claims within the 'Old Testament' Scriptures

A. A list of statements:

1. Then God spoke all these words ... (Exodus 20:1).
2. And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.... (Exodus 24:4).
3. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient' (Exodus 24:7).*
4. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tablets (Exodus 32:16).
5. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying ... (Leviticus 4:1; cf. 5:14; 6:1,8,19,24; 7:22; etc. - 24 times in book).
6. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying ... (Numbers 3:5; cf. 3:11,44; 4:21; 5:1,5,11; etc. - 33 times in book).
7. These are the commandments and the ordinances that the Lord commanded through Moses to the Israelites ... (Numbers 36:13).*
8. The Lord our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying ... (Deuteronomy 1:6).
9. Then the Lord said to me ... (Deuteronomy 2:2).
10. The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants' ..." (Deuteronomy 34:4).*
11. After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying ... (Joshua 1:1).
12. The Lord said to Joshua ... (Joshua 3:7).
13. The Lord said ... (Judges 1:2).
14. Then the Lord said to Samuel ... (1 Samuel 3:11).
15. The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken ... (2 Samuel 23:2-3).
16. ... the priest Hilkiah found the book of the law of the Lord given through Moses (2 Chronicles 34:14).
17. Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind ... (Job 38:1).
18. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise (Psalms 56:10).
19. Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the Lord has spoken ... (Isaiah 1:2).
20. ... therefore thus says the Lord God ... (Isaiah 7:7).
21. The words of Jeremiah ... to whom the word of the Lord came ... (Jeremiah 1:1-2).
22. The word of the Lord came to me, saying ... (Jeremiah 2:1).
23. Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth.' (Jeremiah 1:9).*

24. ... as I was among the exiles ... the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.... the word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel ... and the hand of the Lord was on him there (Ezekiel 1:1-3).*
 25. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God' (Ezekiel 2:4).*
 26. To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise, for you have ... now revealed to me what we asked of you ... (Daniel 2:23).
 27. ... I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to the prophet Jeremiah, must be fulfilled ... (Daniel 9:2).*
 28. The word of the Lord that came to Hosea ... (Hosea 1:1).
 29. The word of the Lord that came to Joel ... (Joel 1:1).
 30. Thus says the Lord ... (Amos 1:3).
 31. The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom ... (Obadiah 1).
 32. And see the opening verses of the rest of the Hebrew latter prophets.
- B. Though this list is already lengthy, it is certainly not exhaustive. It should, however, help to emphasise the significant number of specific claims of divine origin made within the Old Testament Scriptures themselves.

II. 'Old Testament' claims supported in the New Testament Scriptures

- A. Not only does the Old Testament contain numerous claims that its words are God's words, but these claims are also clearly substantiated by the writings of the New Testament.
1. Firstly, there are passages where the New Testament Scriptures affirm the divine origin of words attributed to God in the Old Testament Scriptures. A few examples will suffice:
 - a) All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' (Matthew 1:22-23; cf. Isaiah 7:14).
 - b) For God said, 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die' (Matthew 15:4; cf. Exodus 20:12; 21:17).
 - c) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people' (2 Corinthians 6:16; cf. Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:26-27).
 - d) Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground' (Acts 7:33; cf. Exodus 3:5).
 - e) And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living (Matthew 22:31-32; cf. Exodus 3:6).

2. Secondly, there are a couple of references within the New Testament writings that equate the text of the Old Testament Scriptures with the voice of God himself.
 - a) Galatians 3:8
 - (1) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed' (Galatians 3:8, ESV).
 - (2) Now the Lord said to Abram, '... I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed' (Genesis 12:1,3, ESV).
 - (3) In Genesis 12:3 we are told that God, or rather, "the Lord said to Abram ..." but in Galatians 3:8 Paul simply says that "the Scripture ... preached, saying ..." So the Scripture says what God said.
 - b) Romans 9:17
 - (1) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth' (Romans 9:17, ESV).
 - (2) Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, ... But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth'" (Exodus 9:13,16, ESV).
 - (3) In Exodus 9, it is the Lord, through Moses, who speaks to Pharaoh. But Paul writes that it was the Scripture who spoke to him - even though that Scripture had not yet actually be written when Moses spoke. So again, it is the Scripture that says what God said.
3. Thirdly, looking at things the other way around, God is sometimes spoken of as if he was synonymous with the Scriptures. That is, where the Old Testament Scriptures are quoted, it is claimed that God himself had spoken. Here are a few examples:
 - a) Matthew 19:3-4
 - (1) He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'"? (Matthew 19:3-4, ESV).
 - (2) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24, ESV).
 - (3) The text in Genesis does not attribute these words to the mouth of God but rather treats them as part of the narrative. Jesus states that they were said by "he who created" mankind. So God says what the Scriptures said - they are seen as synonymous.
 - b) Hebrews 1:7
 - (1) Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire" (Hebrews 1:7, ESV).

- (2) He makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire (Psalm 104:4, ESV).
- c) Acts 4:24-25
 - (1) And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain'?" (Acts 4:24-25, ESV).
 - (2) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? (Psalm 2:1, ESV).
 - (3) This is an illustration of the principle given in 2 Peter 1:21, where God is said to have spoken by the Holy Spirit through his servants. We know from this passage in Acts 4 that David definitely wrote the second Psalm. We also know that though David wrote it, God actually said it, for God says what the Scriptures said.
- d) There are other examples similar to these illustrating the synonymity of God speaking what the Scriptures have spoken, but these will suffice.

B. The Scriptures are the 'Word of God'

1. The writers of the New Testament documents use a number of words and phrases that seem to have adopted a somewhat technical sense. Phrases such as 'the Scripture,' 'the word of God' and 'the law' possess an immediate sense of the authority of God. Even the phrase, "have you never read ..." implies a mutual recognition of the authority inherent within the written word.
 - a) Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods' - and the scripture cannot be annulled ..." (John 10:34-35).
 - b) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:42; cf. Psalm 118:22-23).
 - c) Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures (Luke 24:27).
2. And the phrases, "have you never read ...?" and "it is written ..." carry a sense of absolute authority.
 - a) ... Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?" (Matthew 21:16; cf. Psalm 8:2).
 - b) Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him'" (Luke 4:8; cf. Deuteronomy 10:20).