

The Prophetic Word

Peter calls the scripture of the old Testament, "The prophetic word," 2 Pet. i. 19, (for it is evident from Luke iii. 4, that [λόγος - G3056] means scripture,) and "prophecy," *ibid.* ver. 20. Paul calls it, "the scriptures of the prophets." Rom. xvi. 26. Zacharias the priest says, "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began." Luke i. 70. Where he means that God had spoken in the prophetic scriptures.

So Abraham says to the luxurious man, "They have Moses and the prophets," that is, the books of scripture. Luke xviii. 39. And elsewhere Luke says: "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke xxiv. 27; so Rom. i. 2. Here we see that all the scriptures are found in the books of Moses and the prophets.

The apostle to the Hebrews says: "God spake in divers manners by the prophets." Heb. i. i. Therefore the prophets were all those by whom God spake to His people. And to this refers also the assertion of the apostle, that the Church is built "upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets." Eph. ii. 20.

This foundation denotes the doctrine of the scriptures, promulgated by the prophets and apostles. Christ says: “All things must be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me:” and then follows immediately, “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.” Luke xxiv. 44, 45.

Paul asks king Agrippa, “Believest thou the prophets?”— that is, the scriptures. Acts xxvi. 27. And when he dealt with the Jews at Rome, he tried to convince them “out of the law of Moses and the prophets.” Acts xxviii. 23.

From these testimonies we collect that the assertion in the major is most true;—that the whole scripture of the old Testament was written and promulgated by prophets. And there are many other similar passages from which it may be concluded, that there is no part of the old Testament which did not proceed from some prophet.

(A Disputation on Holy Scripture, Against the Papists... by William Whitaker, Cambridge: The University Press, M.DCCC.XLIX., 50, e-book; Text and Paragraph structure modified)