

## Final And Sufficient Revelation

There are many religious groups that claim inspiration and authority for writings or prophecies in addition to the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The Mormons claim the Book of Mormon. The Jehovah's Witnesses follow the publications of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. The Seventh Day Adventists regard Ellen G. White as a prophet equal to John the Baptist. The Catholics accept Church tradition and the Pope, when he speaks *ex cathedra*, in addition to the New Testament. The Muslims accept Mohammed and the Koran in addition to Moses, Jesus and the Bible. The Jews, while retaining the Old Testament and their traditions (the Mishna and the Gemara), reject Christ and the New Testament. There are some religious groups that reject both the Old and New Testaments (e.g. Buddhism). Therefore, one of the challenges the Christian faces when trying to bring people to Jesus is the establishment of a standard of authority for determining what we will believe and practice in the worship of God.

This study is designed to show that the New Testament claims sufficiency for itself in establishing the will of Christ. Furthermore, it will show that the New Testament does not admit to any continued latter-day revelation from special prophets who are the successors of the Apostles or other inspired men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Once this is established all other "revelations" and "prophets" must be rejected, and the NT embraced as the final and complete revelation of God's will for all men in all time.

### Finality & Sufficiency of New Testament Revelation (Route 14)

**Hebrews 1:1-2** This text affirms that God has placed all authority in the hands of His Son, Jesus.

Moreover, this authority supersedes previous authority which had been given to the prophets to whom the fathers had given heed. Now, in this last dispensation, we are to listen to Jesus.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** The prophet announces that God will make a new covenant having different and better features than the covenant that he made with Israel upon bringing them out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai (**Exodus 19-20**). This covenant is the New Testament of Christ.

**Hebrews 8:6,7** The passage above (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**) is quoted in the verses that follow this text (**vv. 8-12**). The Apostle Paul testifies that the New Testament of Christ is the better covenant that fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah. Thus, it is His covenant through which Christ now speaks which we are to hear.

**Deuteronomy 18:15-19** Just as Moses prophesied that there would be a NT he prophesied that there would be another Lawgiver. His would be greater than that of Moses since all were to hearken unto Him (**v. 15**). Furthermore, all He spoke was to be regarded as the Word of God (**v. 18**). Everyone that disregards this Lawgiver and His Law will be held accountable and judged.

**Acts 3:20-23** Jesus is the prophet of whom Moses spoke. Jesus is the one we are to hear and heed in "*all things whatsoever*" He speaks concerning the forgiveness of our sins (**vv. 19,26**).

**John 14:26** This text reveals that Jesus sent the Spirit to teach the Apostles "*all things*" and to give them infallible memory of those things which He taught. If the NT is insufficient, how could Christ say the Holy Spirit taught the Apostles all things? He could not? That conclusion is untenable. The New Testament must be a complete and final revelation of the mind and will of Christ.

**John 16:13** Here the Holy Spirit is described as being "*the Spirit of Truth*" Who would guide the Apostles into all truth. If Jesus withheld truth from the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit failed to give all the truth He possessed, He is not "*the Spirit of Truth.*" Again, this is an untenable position. The New Testament is surely all the truth which Jesus promised to give.

**1Corinthians 2:7-10** The Apostles claimed to know all the things that were in the mind of God concerning salvation. How did they know "*the deep things of God*"? The Holy Spirit that "*searcheth all things*" revealed it to them. If He did, then there is no need for additional revelation from God on any matter that pertains to Christ and redemption.

**2Timothy 3:15-17** verse 17 is the key passage in this text affirming that “*all Scripture*” (the totality of Scripture) has the power to make a man “*complete*” or “*perfect*.” Some want to make a point about the OT being the only “*scriptures*” available. Note that Paul deals with the OT in verse 15 and says that it **and** “*faith which is in Christ Jesus*” make a man “*wise to salvation*.” The OT alone is insufficient to effect saving faith, there must be the completed revelation that comes from Christ through His Apostles. With this additional revelation he is “*thoroughly furnished unto all good works*.”

**1Corinthians 13:8-13** Paul affirms that there would be a time when that “*which is in part*,” which included prophecy, would “*fail*” [vanish, done away, put away]. The means of obtaining the parts would vanish when “*that*” which is complete [perfect] arrived. They do not await a person, but a thing—the revelation. Paul illustrates the thought by referring to an ancient mirror made of polished brass. Partial revelation through prophecy, etc. is like the dim reflection of the mirror. Whereas, the completed revelation would result in a face to face encounter, a clear perception of things as they actually are.

**Jude 3** Jude affirms that “*the faith*,” the revelation of the Word of God that produces faith in the hearers of it (**Romans 10:17**), was “*once delivered*,” meaning once for all time, therefore, having no need of repetition or addition (cf., **1Peter 3:18** and **Hebrews 9:28** How many times does Christ have to die?).

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