

## Divine Authority

Lesson 3  
The Only Source of Divine  
Authority Today

## What We Have Learned In The Previous Lesson

We cannot depend on unreliable sources for  
our authority in religion

Personal opinion and emotions

Desires of the majority

Elders, preachers and other leaders

Local church with whom we assemble

The Old Testament

Unwritten and written human traditions

Good results

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## Introduction

- If we are going to please God, we must come to know His will through the only acceptable source of Divine authority today, the New Testament
- But, how do we know this is God's way of communicating with us today?
- In this lesson, we examine the process of how the New Testament came about

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## Purposes of This Lesson

- Understand the only true source of Divine authority today, the New Testament
- Remind us that if our authority for what we do in religion is based on something other than the New Testament, it is not authorized no matter how many people believe it
- Encourage us to seriously study the New Testament to make sure we are practicing only that which is authorized

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## The Only Source of Divine Authority Today

Jesus given all authority by the Father  
Jesus communicated His authority in the  
New Testament  
New Testament Is God's final authority for  
all today

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

- From the beginning, God revealed His will to individuals such as Adam, Noah and Abraham
- Then, He revealed more of His will through Moses and the prophets, His spokesmen
- Finally, He has revealed His complete will through His Son, Jesus Christ

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

- By the authority of Jesus, the Holy Spirit guided His apostles and other inspired men to reveal God's final revelation, the New Testament
- These inspired men also confirmed this truth through miracles they performed by the power of the Holy Spirit

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Heb 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,  
Heb 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Heb 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

Heb 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Heb 2:3 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,

Heb 2:4 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.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

- Jesus told His apostles the Father had given Him all authority over heaven and earth
- Paul said He holds this authority now and will have it until He comes again
- Then, He will turn His kingdom and authority over to the Father
- False belief is when Jesus comes again, He will set up an earthly kingdom

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

1Co 15:24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1Co 15:27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

1Co 15:28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

- His authority directs Christians in how we should work and worship with a local church
- His authority also directs Christians in how we should live our daily lives
- We must willingly submit to His authority in all areas in order to be pleasing to Him

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

Col 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

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## Jesus Given All Authority By The Father

Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

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## How Did Jesus Receive This Authority?

- Jesus is now God's Prophet or spokesman and King
- He is also now the only Head of His church
- But, how did this occur?
- And, what does this mean to us today?

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## Jesus Claimed To Be God's Supreme Spokesman

Mat 17:1 Six days later Jesus \*took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and \*led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

Mat 17:2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Mat 17:3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

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## Jesus Claimed To Be God's Supreme Spokesman

Mat 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

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## Moses Foretold The Coming of Jesus As Prophet

Deu 18:18 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deu 18:19 'It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

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## Peter States Jesus Was This Prophet

Act 3:22 "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.

Act 3:23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

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## Peter States Jesus Was This Prophet

Act 3:24 "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.

Act 3:25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'

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## Peter States Jesus Was This Prophet

Act 3:26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."

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## Jesus Is Now Lord and King

- David was told that God would raise up one of his descendants who would rule on David's throne forever
- The earthly reign of David's descendants came to an end
- But God fulfilled His promise by raising Jesus from the dead and seating Him to rule at His own right hand in heaven

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## David's Descendant To Reign Forever

2Sa 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

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## David's Descendant To Reign Forever

2Sa 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."''

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## Reign of David's Descendants Comes To An End

Jer 22:28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered jar? Or is he an undesirable vessel? Why have he and his descendants been hurled out And cast into a land that they had not known?

Jer 22:29 "O land, land, land, Hear the word of the LORD!

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## Reign of David's Descendants Comes To An End

Jer 22:30 "Thus says the LORD, 'Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'"

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Luk 1:31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

Luk 1:32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

Luk 1:33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

Act 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Act 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

Act 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." 37

## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

- Because He is now Lord and King, He has the right to command us concerning how we should be saved
  - He also has the right to command us concerning how we should live after becoming a Christian
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## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." 39

## The Father Seats Jesus At His Right Hand As King

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." 40

## Jesus Is Now Head of His Church

- Jesus promised He would build His church, assembly of saved people
- Through His death, Jesus provides forgiveness of sins so those who obey Him might become members of His one church, His body
- After the Father raised Him from the dead, he gave Him all authority as head of His church 41

## Jesus Promised To Build His Church

Mat 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Mat 16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 He \*said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 42

## Jesus Promised To Build His Church

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

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## Jesus Promised To Build His Church

Mat 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

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## Through His Death, He Provided Forgiveness of Sins

Mat 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

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## Through His Death, He Provided Forgiveness of Sins

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

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## Jesus Raised From Dead And Made Head of His Church

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

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## Jesus Raised From Dead And Made Head of His Church

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

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## Jesus Raised From Dead And Made Head of His Church

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus Raised From Dead And Made Head of His Church

Eph 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

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## Jesus Communicated His Authority In The New Testament

- While on earth, Jesus spoke the Father's teaching to His apostles
- Before He died, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth
- On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit guided the apostles to preach the gospel for the first time

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## Jesus Communicated His Authority In The New Testament

- The apostles and other inspired men spoke and wrote the word the Spirit gave them
- These inspired men confirmed the word by miracles that the Spirit enabled them to do

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## Jesus Spoke Truth While On Earth

Joh 17:7 "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;

Joh 17:8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Joh 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Joh 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Joh 16:15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Luk 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Luk 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

Luk 24:47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Luk 24:48 "You are witnesses of these things.

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Luk 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Act 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

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## Jesus Promised Apostles Holy Spirit To Teach Them Truth

Act 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

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## Qualifications of Jesus' Apostles

Act 1:21 "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us--

Act 1:22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Act 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Act 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Act 2:5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

Act 2:6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 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;

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

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## Apostles and Prophets Spoke And Wrote The Spirit's Words

Joh 20:30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

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## Word Confirmed By Miracles

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Heb 2:4 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.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

- After Jesus' death, New Testament or New Covenant went into effect
- This is God's final and complete revelation to humanity
- It replaced the Old Covenant, Law of Moses
- To go beyond the New Testament is to do what is not authorized

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 9:16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

Heb 9:17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

Jud 1:4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;  
2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

2Jo 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2Jo 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting;

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## New Testament Final Complete Authority Today

2Jo 1:11 for the one who gives him a  
greeting participates in his evil deeds.

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## What We Have Learned In This Lesson

Jesus is the only source of authority today  
He has been made Prophet, King and Head  
of His church

He has communicated His will through the  
New Testament

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide  
inspired men into all truth and give them  
miraculous powers to confirm the truth

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## What We Have Learned In This Lesson

We can read, understand and obey the truth  
of the New Testament

New Testament is final and complete  
revelation of God to humanity

To add or subtract from it is to go beyond  
the authority of Christ

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