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## Book 8

# God's Apostles

## *Messengers of Divine Knowledge*

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The chapter numbers below are color-coded according to the following categories in order to help you prioritize your reading:

**Best:** The most helpful, interesting and/or important chapters of the book.

**Essential:** Important chapters to understand the topic of the book.

**Specialized:** Chapters for the finer or more complex points of the topic of the book.

### Part I: Apostles

#### **8.1:** **Defining God's Apostles:** *Messengers of God* [10 pp.]

- A) **Defining God's Apostles:** *What & who was an Apostle?*
- B) **The Apostle of God the Father:** *Jesus Christ*
- C) **The Apostles of Jesus Christ:** *The Twelve, Seventy, & Paul etc.*
- D) **The Apostles of the Early Churches:** *Epaphroditus, etc.*

*Extras & Endnotes*

#### **8.2:** **The Gifts of Apostolic Revelation:** *Divine Wisdom & Knowledge* [21 pp.]

- A) **Confusion Regarding the Apostolic Gifts of Divine Wisdom and Knowledge**
- B) **Their Divine Content & Miraculous Nature**
- C) **Their Uniquely Apostolic Nature**
- D) **Their Abiding Nature:** *Distinguished from prophecy*
- E) **Their Limitations**

*Extras & Endnotes*

#### **8.3:** **The Methods of Apostolic Revelation:** *Seeing & Hearing God* [25 pp.]

- A) **Apostolic Revelation vs. "Inspiration"**
- B) **The "Seeing" & "Hearing" of Jesus**
  - B.1) Christ's claims to divine revelation

- B.2) How Christ received revelation
- B.3) When Christ received His revelation

**C) The "Seeing" & "Hearing" of the Apostles**

- C.1) Claims & promises of apostolic revelation
- C.2) Apostolic revelation by direct physical contact
- C.3) Apostolic revelation by supernatural reminding
- C.4) Apostolic revelation by visions/apparitions
- C.5) Apostolic revelation by auditions
- C.6) Apostolic revelation through Prophets
- C.7) Apostolic preaching through Church tradition

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **8.4: The Divine Authority & Authentication of Apostles** [19 pp.]

**A) The Divine Authority of Revelatory Apostles**

- A.1) Biblical Support for the Authority of Apostles: *"As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you"*
- A.2) Divine Authority of Apostolic Writings: *"What I am writing to you is the Lord's command"* (1 Cor 14:37).
- A.3) Modern Support for Apostolic Authority: *"The Apostles are men different in kind from all other men."*
- A.4) Modern Misconceptions of Apostolic Authority

**B) The Divine Authentication of Apostles**

- B.1) Miracle Working
- B.2) Modern misconceptions on apostolic authentication
- B.3) Supernatural Virtue
- B.4) Sound doctrine

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **Part II: Cessation of Scripture & Sign Gifts**

## **8.5: The Historical Cessation of Apostles** [16 pp.]

- A) Apostles are Not Church Leaders, Planters, or Missionaries**
- B) Heretical Claims to Apostleship:** *From Mormons to charismaticism*
- C) Biblical Evidence for the Cessation of Apostles**
- D) Historical Evidence for the Cessation of Apostles**
- E) Arguments Against the Cessation of Apostleship**

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **8.6: The Biblical Cessation of Scripture & Sign Gifts: A Closer Look at 1 Cor 13:8-13** [65 pp.]

### **A) The Context of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

- A.1) The Modern Context: *the Charismatic debate*
- A.2) The Revelational Context: *divine knowledge, prophecy, & tongues were miraculous gifts for receiving and authenticating new divine revelation with the authority of Scripture*
- A.3) The Canonical Context: *prophecy ceased with completion of OT revelation*
- A.4) The Historical Context: *Paul's prophecy was fulfilled in the fourth century*
- A.5) The Corinthian Context: *virtues more valuable & enduring than revelatory gifts*

### **B) Interpretation of Verse 8**

- B.1) Text & Translation
- B.2) Interpretation: *Why these gifts?*

### **C) Interpretation of Verse 9**

- C.1) Text & Translation
- C.2) Interpretation: *revelatory gifts are piecemeal*

### **D) Interpretation of Verse 10**

- D.1) Text & Translation
- D.2) Interpretation: *when the NT revelation is completed, the revelatory gifts will cease*

### **E) Interpretation of Verse 11**

- E.1) Text & Translation
- E.2) Interpretation: *revelatory gifts are for immature stage of covenant*

### **F) Interpretation of Verse 12a**

- F.1) Text & Translation
- F.2) Interpretation: *revelatory gifts provide indirect revelation to the Church*

### **G) Interpretation of Verse 12b**

- G.1) Text & Translation
- G.2) Interpretation: *Scripture provides more direct & clear revelation*

### **H) Interpretation of Verse 12c**

- H.1) Text & Translation
- H.2) Interpretation: *Paul's understanding of NT revelation was partial*

### **I) Interpretation of Verse 12d**

- I.1) Text & Translation
- I.2) Interpretation: *When the NT revelation was complete even Paul would have a more complete understanding and direct experience of it*

### **J) Interpretation of Verse 13**

- J.1) Text & Translation

- J.2) Interpretation: *even faith & hope will outlast the revelatory gifts in the Church Age*

### **K) An Expanded Translation**

*Publications & Particulars*

## **8.7: Answering Arguments Against *Historicism*** [18 pp.]

### **A) A Summary of Biblical Evidence for *Historicism***

### **B) Answering Arguments Against *Historicism***

- B.1) The Misuse of Acts: *Where are the Apostles?*  
 B.2) Acts 2:16-21: *Where is the Blood & Fire?*  
 B.3) Ephesians 4:11-13: *What is necessary for the maturity of the Church*  
 B.4) 1 Corinthians 1:7: *grace does not equal gifts*  
 B.5) Romans 11:29: *referring to Israel, not spiritual gifts in the Church*  
 B.6) Hebrews 13:8

*Publications & Particulars*

## **Part III: The Creation vs. "Inspiration" of Scripture**

## **8.8: The "Inspiration" of Scripture: *Its Elements & Problems*** [20 pp.]

### **A) A Rare But Simple Explanation of How We Got Scripture**

### **B) A Very Brief History of the Greatest Theological Debate of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

### **C) Scripture's Divine Authority Depends on its Inerrancy**

### **D) Problems With the Evangelical View of "Inspiration"**

- D.1) All theories of "inspiration" are just that--theories  
 D.2) The assumption that humans cannot sufficiently record revelation  
 D.3) The promotion of & dependence on *divine/human mental telepathy* even though there are no clear biblical examples of it  
 D.4) The effort to devise one all-encompassing theory of "inspiration"  
 D.5) The inherent contradiction in the theory of *concurrent inspiration*  
 D.6) The difficulty & actually misguided effort to denounce "dictation"

*Extras & Endnotes*

## **8.9: The Creation of Scripture: *The Meaning of 2 Timothy 3:16*** [17 pp.]

### **A) The Creation of Scripture**

- A.1) Scripture is written divine revelation  
 A.2) Scripture is not "inspired"

A.3) The divine creation rather than “inspiration” of Scripture

**B) The Methods of Creating Scripture:** *Dictated, Deposited, Researched, Experienced*

B.1) Studying Scripture to understand how it was created

B.2) *Deposited* Scripture

B.3) *Dictated* Scripture

B.4) *Researched* Scripture

B.4.a) The biblical research of Luke

B.4.b) Biblical research throughout Scripture

B.4.c) The biblical *research* of Solomon

B.5) *Experienced* Scripture

*Extras & Endnotes*

**8.10: The Incarnation of Scripture:** *The Human/Divine Mix in the Creation of Scripture* [19 pp.]

**A) The Divine/Human Mix in Scripture**

A.1) The divine & human elements of Scripture

A.2) The popular exclusion of the human element in descriptions of the writing of Scripture

**B) The Problems with a Mystical Understanding of How Scripture was Written**

**C) The Differing Levels of the Human Element in the Process of Communicating Scripture**

**D) What Can God Expect Humans to Do?**

D.1) To be human is not necessarily to err

D.2) Humans are able to record divine revelation

D.3) Humans are able to remember divine revelation

D.4) Humans are able to record divine history

D.5) Humans are able to translate & copy divine revelation

D.6) Humans are able to teach divine revelation

*Extras & Endnotes*

**8.11: The Flexibility of Scripture:** *A Critique of Verbal Inspiration* [17 pp.]

**A) Defining *Verbal & Plenary Inspiration***

**B) Evangelical Disclaimers & Critiques Regarding *Verbal Inspiration***

**C) Answering Arguments for *Verbal Inspiration***

C.1) Humans are able to accurately record revelation, but sometimes God dictated to them.

C.2) Scripture does not reflect *verbal inspiration*

- C.3) God did not design Scripture to depend on *verbal inspiration*
- C.4) Did Christ & the Apostles depend on *verbal inspiration* in the OT?
- C.5) Does meaning depend on specific words?
- C.6) Did Christ teach *verbal inspiration*? *Matt 5:18; John 10:35*
- C.7) Did the Apostle teach *verbal inspiration*? *1 Cor 2:7-13*

*Extras & Endnotes*