

shall precede His second coming, He refers to the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet. This shall, then, stand where it ought not. Thus the purely predictive element in prophecy has the support of our Lord's authority.

So far then as to our Saviour's testimony to the elder prophets. But may we also learn anything from Him as to the New Testament gift? Turning to Matt. xxiii. and to Luke xi., we find that He contemplates the sending out of prophets and wise men and scribes. "Some of these," He says, "shall ye kill and crucify." This last word, "crucify," sufficiently indicates that we have here New Testament prophets. The distinct categories are noticeable prophets in one class, wise men and scribes apart. But our Lord also here speaks of the prophets of the older dispensation. "Ye build the sepulchres of the prophets." "O Jerusalem! which killest the prophets." I deduce that He regarded prophets, old and new, as of substantially the same kind.

At an earlier period He had promised inspiration to the twelve, when for His sake they were brought before governors and kings. "It shall be given you," He says, "in that hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you." Then there are the passages relating to the promised gift of the Comforter in St. John's Gospel. True, we have here no mention of prophets, and we are accustomed to apply to ourselves many of the blessed assurances which form part of these discourses. Yet we cannot doubt but that such expressions as the following had a special and primary application to the Apostles themselves, or, at least, to other inspired persons:—  
". . . . "The Holy Spirit . . . shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you . . . He shall guide you into all the truth . . . He shall glorify me, for He shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you." Perhaps the dependence upon Christ Himself, the bearing witness of Him brought out in these last sentences is the most distinctive feature of New Testament prophecy. But not of such prophecy only. The wise men and scribes would also have Him for their theme.