

We may, then, thus summarise our Lord's teaching: in His view the prophet, or more exactly, perhaps, the prophetic writer, was inspired by the Holy Ghost, had a Divine commission and consequent authority, was a foreteller who bore witness to the Christ, speaking of Him in both dispensations, though with more of fulness and of directness in that of grace.

Confining ourselves for the moment to the Old Testament prophets, we may now further ask, What had our Saviour's Apostles to say as to the nature of the prophetic gift? St. Peter and St. Paul may well suffice as representatives of their order. That their independence of one another has been exaggerated by Baur and Renan into a proof of mutual hostility enhances the value of their testimony. That in which they agree must have been the common property of all Christians. And as to St. Paul, truly if Baur's view of his anti-Jewish position were the true view, we might expect Marcion's treatment of the Old Testament to have been anticipated by the Apostle. Everybody knows that it was not so. Of St. Peter we have his speeches in the Acts and his two letters. In the speeches and in the first Epistle we find he makes the same use of Old Testament Scriptures as did our Blessed Lord, referring them to the prophets instrumentally and to the Holy Ghost as their Author, and hence insisting on the necessity of their fulfilment. An example (Acts i. 16) fully worked out is afforded in his address concerning the election of a successor to Judas. Here every clause is instructive in relation to inspiration. *Brethren*—for this was Church doctrine—*it was needful*, by virtue of the Divine immutability, *that the Scripture*—the technical name for a book of the Canon—*should be fulfilled*—a recognition of vaticination—*which the Holy Ghost spake before concerning Judas*—a distinct assertion of inspiration—*by the mouth of David*, the human agent recognised in his place.

Other passages, both in the Acts and in 1 Peter, will be found to fall in with this estimate of prophetic writing; but of these one should be specially noticed, because it helps us more directly to define the prophet's gift. After quoting