

that we will find a complete list...unless the last book composed should have contained such, but that some clue will be given as to the fact that a "rule" or "measuring standard" is known is to be expected. To keep this as orderly as possible we will treat it in terms of evidence from the Old Testament as well as from the New.

a. Canonical evidence: Old Testament

There are at least four concepts in the framework of the Old Testament that show evidence of the understanding of a canonical framework. Such evidence argues that what is produced is positive and authoritative and thus to be followed. These concepts harmonize with what is often called the **prophetic rule** of Deuteronomy 13 and 18 in which the test for truth was that...1) the words given by a prophet would come to pass; 2) the message of the prophet would lead to Jehovah; 3) what was prophesied would agree with what God had already given. Any failure of agreement with these points would leave a prophet designated as false and his prophecy as a fraud. The particular points of our reference that harmonize so are these:

(1) Citations of Divine authority

The most specific terminology is the phrase "thus saith the Lord." Note that is most frequent in the prophetic literature although the concept of such Divine origination is seen in the Pentateuch as well. But when one claims that a message is from the Lord or that the words are the very words of the Lord, that is a powerful claim for authority. In terms of canonical evidence it suggests that whatever was received as authoritative needed an originating point with the Lord. The claim in itself is not proof, however, and needs the support of the ideas in the previous paragraph. But the claim is challenging and the idea is needed in any work thought to be canonical....that the Lord has spoken.

(2) Reverence for Divine Books

Not a very clear title, I think, but I mean that as the "divinely authorized" word was given it was received with special respect indicating a rule of information that was superior to letters and directives from kings, etc. Examples of this would include the placing of the law in the testimony as in