

# Argument 8: No Modern Prophets or Apostles — Cheat Sheet

## Their Claim in One Sentence

The apostolic office ceased with the original Twelve; the completed Bible makes prophets unnecessary.

## Their Three Key Verses (and How to Answer)

### Ephesians 2:20 — "Built on the foundation of apostles and prophets"

- **Their reading:** Foundation is laid once. Apostles were temporary.
- **Your response:** Read Ephesians 4:11-14. Paul says apostles and prophets are needed "till we all come in the unity of the faith." With 45,000+ denominations, that hasn't happened yet. The condition for cessation has not been met — by Paul's own standard.

### Hebrews 1:1-2 — "In these last days spoken unto us by His Son"

- **Their reading:** Christ is God's final word; prophets are obsolete.
- **Your response:** Christ Himself appointed apostles and prophets (Eph 4:11). He *sends* prophets (Matt 23:34). The Son speaks *through* prophets, not instead of them. Acts records prophets *after* Christ's ascension (Acts 11:27-28; 13:1; 21:9-10).

### Jude 3 — "The faith once for all delivered"

- **Their reading:** Revelation is finished; nothing more needed.
- **Your response:** *Hapax* = "definitively," not "never again." If this closes revelation, it closes all NT books written after Jude. Context is about defending against false teachers — the exact reason we need prophets.

## Key Scriptures FOR Modern Prophets

Verse	Point
Eph 4:11-14	Offices needed "till we all come in the unity of the faith"
1 Cor 12:28	"God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets"
Amos 3:7	God does nothing without revealing it to prophets
Acts 11:27-28	Agabus prophesied in the post-ascension church
Acts 13:1	Prophets and teachers at Antioch
Acts 21:9-10	Philip's four daughters prophesied; Agabus prophesied again
Matt 23:34	Jesus: "I send unto you prophets" — future tense
Rev 11:3	Two witnesses prophesy in the last days
Joel 2:28-29	"Your sons and daughters shall prophesy" — last days
Acts 3:19-21	Peter: "restitution of all things" before Christ returns
Rev 18:20	Apostles and prophets present in last-days context

## Historical Ammunition

- **Didache (c. 50-120 AD):** Instructions for receiving and testing traveling prophets (ch. 11-13) — prophets were expected.
- **Clement of Rome (96 AD):** Affirmed apostolic succession (*1 Clement* 42-44).
- **Justin Martyr (c. 100-165):** "The prophetic gifts remain with us, even to the present time" (*Dialogue with Trypho* 82).
- **Irenaeus (c. 130-202):** Affirmed ongoing miraculous gifts and apostolic succession.
- **Cessationism formalized by B.B. Warfield in 1918** — a modern Protestant invention.

## One-Line Objection Responses

Objection	Response
"Foundation is laid once!"	A foundation without a building is a ruin. Paul said the building is still growing (Eph 2:21-22).
"We have the Bible — that's enough!"	The Bible was <i>produced</i> by prophets. 45,000 denominations reading the same Bible proves the need for authoritative interpretation.
"Modern prophets could be false!"	So could ancient ones — God gave tests for that (Deut 18:20-22; 1 John 4:1). You don't ban doctors because of malpractice.
"Paul warned about false apostles!"	Counterfeits prove the genuine article exists. You don't counterfeit a discontinued currency (2 Cor 11:13).
"God spoke finally through His Son!"	His Son appointed apostles and prophets (Eph 4:11) and promised future prophets (Matt 23:34; Rev 11:3).
"The apostolic age ended!"	Show me the verse that says it was supposed to end. The <i>disappearance</i> of apostles is evidence of apostasy, not design.

## The Apostasy Is Historical Fact

- Original apostles all dead by ~100 AD; no one claimed the office.
- Church governance shifted: apostles to bishops to popes.
- Doctrines debated/altered at councils (Nicaea 325, Constantinople 381, Chalcedon 451).

- This is the "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine" Eph 4:14 warned about.
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## LDS Position (Articles of Faith 6 & 9)

**AoF 6:** "We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth."

**AoF 9:** "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."

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## The Knockout Question

"Ephesians 4:11-14 says apostles and prophets were given until we reach 'the unity of the faith.' With 45,000 Christian denominations, has that condition been met? If not, by Paul's own words, we still need them."

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## Resources

- [FAIR: Apostolic Succession](#)
- [FAIR: The Great Apostasy](#)
- [Church: Apostasy and Restoration](#)
- [Church: Prophets](#)