

# Luke 16:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

## Analysis

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Abraham's response: 'Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' Abraham points to Scripture—'Moses and the prophets' (Μωϋσέα καὶ τοὺς προφήτας, Mōusea kai tous prophētas)—as sufficient revelation. The command 'let them hear them' (ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν, akousatōsan autōn) indicates God has provided adequate testimony. The Old Testament Scriptures contain everything necessary for salvation: humanity's sinfulness, God's holiness and justice, the need for sacrifice and atonement, and promises of the coming Messiah. If people won't hear Scripture's testimony, supernatural signs won't convince them. The problem isn't insufficient information but hardness of heart.

## Historical Context

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This verse establishes Scripture's sufficiency for salvation. God has spoken through His word; nothing else is required. The phrase 'Moses and the prophets' was Jewish shorthand for the Old Testament (Luke 24:27, 44). These Scriptures testified about Christ and salvation (John 5:39, 46). Abraham's appeal to Scripture rather than agreeing to send Lazarus teaches that faith comes by hearing the word (Romans 10:17), not by spectacular signs. Jesus consistently refused to perform signs for those demanding miracles as conditions for belief (Matthew 12:38-39, 16:1-4). Those who reject Scripture won't be convinced by miracles—the same hardness that resists God's word resists His works.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse establish the Bible's sufficiency for knowing God and obtaining salvation?
2. Why won't people who reject Scripture be convinced even by supernatural signs?
3. What does this teach about the relationship between faith and evidence?

## Interlinear Text

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λέγει αὐτῶν Ἀβραάμ ἔχουσιν Μωσέα καὶ τοὺς  
saith them Abraham They have Moses and G3588  
G3004 G846 G11 G2192 G3475 G2532

προφήτας· ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν  
the prophets let them hear them  
G4396 G191 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 15:21** (References Moses): For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

**Luke 24:27** (Prophecy): And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.