

Jesus and the Bible

What did Jesus teach about the Bible? This is an important question for there are many who claim to be followers of Christ who say that the Old Testament scriptures are not a reliable source of information. These deny the reliability of the account of creation, the Great Flood in the days of Noah, God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, etc. However, if Jesus is trustworthy, His word must be believed. What authority did He attribute to the Old Testament Scriptures?

Three times, when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He quoted Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; cf. Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 10:20), confronting Satan, prefacing each quote with one significant assertion: "It is written...." If He, and even Satan, believed the Old Testament Scriptures to be the word of God, not simply mythological stories and human opinions, Otherwise, His quotes would have carried no weight. When theological questions came up during His ministry, Jesus repeatedly cited Scripture as authority in making reply. For examples, read Matthew 9:3-6; 21:29-33, and John 10:33-36). In fact, Jesus emphasized the necessity of believing Scripture by telling the unbelieving: "Search the scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.... For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:38, 46-47).

Jesus believed the Old Testament Scriptures to be so reliable, in fact, that He declared that not so much as a jot (the smallest Hebrew letter) or tittle (a small punctuation mark) would pass from the Law till all was fulfilled (Matthew 5:18). On still another occasion, Jesus said plainly, "the scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35). The apostle Paul would later affirm, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God...that the man of God may be furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The New Testament Scriptures are equally reliable, inasmuch as Jesus' promised to His disciples that following His departure into heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth", who would guide them "into all truth" (John 16:13).

How do you regard the Bible? Jesus put His stamp of approval upon it. To disregard the teachings of the Bible is to disregard the teachings of Jesus, who said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). We live in a day when it has become fashionable to rely more upon human authority than upon the revealed, Holy Spirit inspired word of God. If you are serious about being received into glory at the coming of Jesus Christ, you must seriously make the study of the Bible a priority in your life.

—Ron