

Class # 5
“The Bible: God’s Word, Part 3”

WE’VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD. TODAY WE’LL TRY AND ANSWER A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS:

(1) HOW CAN I KNOW THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT ERROR?

(A) 2 Peter 1:20-21 assures us that God’s Word is true and reliable.

(B) There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled during the life and ministry of Jesus. If we analyze the probability of one person fulfilling just eight, the probability would be 1 in 10 with 17 zeros after it! We can understand why Peter declares that the written word of prophecy is more sure.

(C) 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture finds its origin in God.

(D) Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie.

(2) DID JESUS BELIEVE THE BIBLE WAS TRUE?

Jesus believed the all of the people of the Bible lived and that the stories of the Bible were true. In fact Jesus affirmed some of the most unusual and controversial accounts in scripture. Take out your Bibles and look up the following scriptures that Jesus affirmed as being true. This study is taken from Net Bible Institute operated free of charge by Don Stewart.

1. The People Were Actual People

The first thing we find Jesus confirming about the Old Testament is that the people mentioned in its pages truly did exist. They were not mythical characters.

A. Abraham

Jesus confirmed the existence of Abraham. He said:

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad (John 8:56).

John 8:56 (NIV)

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

B. Isaac And Jacob

The patriarchs, Isaac and Jacob, were real people according to Jesus.

And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 8:11).

Matthew 8:11 (NIV)

¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

C. The Queen Of Sheba

The Queen of Sheba actually came to visit Solomon.

The Queen of the South shall rise up against this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42).

Matthew 12:42 (NIV)

⁴² The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

D. Solomon

Solomon himself, the great king, was a historical person.

yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these (Matthew 6:29).

Matthew 6:29 (NIV)

²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

E. Elijah

Elijah was a genuine prophet. When asked about Elijah returning to this earth, Jesus clearly said that he was returning.

And He answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things (Matthew 17:11).

Matthew 17:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.

F. Elisha

The story about Elisha the prophet and Naaman the leper was also confirmed by Jesus.

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian (Luke 4:27).

Luke 4:27 (NIV)

²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed--only Naaman the Syrian."

G. Zechariah

Zechariah the prophet was also acknowledged by Jesus.

from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation (Luke 11:51).

Luke 11:51 (NIV)

⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

H. Sodom And Gomorrah

Jesus believed that Sodom and Gomorrah were actual cities that were judged by God.

Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city (Matthew 10:15).

Matthew 10:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

I. Tyre And Sidon

The account of Tyre and Sidon, the cities that were judged in the Old Testament, was confirmed by Jesus.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in

sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you (Matthew 11:21,22).

2. The Stories Were Factual

As we look at the way Jesus treated the Old Testament, we discover that He assumed the various stories to be factual.

A. Moses Given Circumcision

Jesus stated that it was God who gave the people the rite of circumcision through Moses.

On this account Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man (John 7:22).

John 7:22 (NIV)

²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath.

B. The Manna In The Wilderness

The provision of the manna, given to the children of Israel while they were in the wilderness, was confirmed by the Lord Jesus.

Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat' (John 6:31).

C. David Eating The Bread Of Presentation

The story of David and his men eating the bread of presentation was acknowledged by Jesus.

But He said to them, Have you not read what David did, when he became hungry, he and his companions; how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? (Matthew 12:3,4).

D. David The Writer Of Certain Psalms

Jesus taught that David was the writer of certain of the Psalms.

He said to them, Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying (Matthew 22:43).

Matthew 22:43 (NIV)

⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

E. Moses Wrote The Law

According to Jesus, the Law was indeed given by Moses.

And Jesus said to him, See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the offering that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them (Matthew 8:4).

F. The Suffering Of The Prophets

The fact that the prophets suffered was used by Jesus as an example of how His disciples will suffer.

Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matthew 5:12).

G. Episode With Lot's Wife

The story of Lot's wife, turning into a pillar of salt, was used by Jesus as an example of not looking back.

Remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:32).

3. Jesus Confirmed Some Of The Most Controversial Stories

In addition, Jesus confirmed some of the most ridiculed stories in the Old Testament. It is almost as though He went out of His way to put His stamp of approval on them.

A. Adam And Eve

Jesus believed in the Genesis account of creation - which includes the direct creation of Adam and Eve.

And He answered and said, Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh (Matthew 19:4-5).

He used Adam and Eve as an example of God's purpose in marriage.

B. Cain And Abel

The account of Cain killing Abel is rejected today in many circles, but Jesus believed it occurred.

from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation (Luke 11:51).

C. The Flood In Noah's Day

Was there really a Flood, in the days of Noah, that God sent to destroy the earth? Jesus assumed there was.

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be (Matthew 24:37-39).

Jesus compared the circumstances surrounding Noah's Flood as similar to those at His Second Coming.

D. Jonah And The Great Sea Creature

Jesus also believed the story of Jonah and the great sea creature literally occurred. In fact, He used it as a sign of His resurrection:

But He answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall stand up against this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here (Matthew 12:39-41).

E. Daniel

Though the authorship of Daniel is often rejected today, Jesus believed that he was a true prophet.

Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) (Matthew 24:15).

All of these disputed and ridiculed accounts of the Old Testament were confirmed by Jesus as actually occurring. Furthermore, He used certain of them as illustrating some of the most important events in His own ministry - including His resurrection and Second Coming. Since He demonstrated Himself to be God's Son, His testimony settles the matter - these stories did occur.

4. Spoke Of Prophecy Being Fulfilled

Jesus said that certain predictions, recorded in the Old Testament, were fulfilled in His life and ministry.

And He began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing (Luke 4:21).

This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You' (Matthew 11:10).

And He said to them, Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I say to you, that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him (Mark 9:12,13).

because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled (Luke 21:22).

Jesus considered the predictions of the Old Testament as being authoritative - He assumed they needed to be fulfilled.

Conclusion

As we examine the attitude of the Lord Jesus toward the Old Testament we find Him viewing it as totally trustworthy. Jesus believed the people actually existed and the stories literally occurred. This includes some of the most controversial accounts such as Adam and Eve, Noah, and Jonah. He never cast doubt on any of parts of the Old Testament, on the contrary He believed all of it was equally authoritative. Consequently, Christians, to be consistent, should have the same view as Jesus.

Complete Testimony

Therefore, we have the witness of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Jesus Himself that the Old Testament was inspired by God.

