

Jesus and the Word of God

The Bible or Word of God to Jesus was the Old Testament. If you ever had any doubt as to the accuracy of it, one thing to note is that Jesus never made any doubtful statements about it.

Jesus referred to the Old Testament all the time. He used it to introduce Himself (*Luke 4:16-21*), to instruct his audience (*John 6:25-34*), to teach salvation (*John 3:14*), to silence his enemies (*Matt 15:1-9*), to fight Satan (*Luke 4:1-12*), to alert His Disciples (*Matthew 26:31*). He used the scriptures on the cross (*Matt 27:46*) and after His resurrection (*Luke 24:27*). He used the Old Testament scriptures constantly and never once questioned, but upheld its absolute authority as the Word of God.

One of the more famous teachings of Christ is the Beatitudes, each one is found somewhere in the Old Testament scriptures. Anyone who is thoroughly aware of the Old Testament scriptures can not dispute that Jesus' thought process included those scriptures, directly and indirectly, at all times. Furthermore, He never gave His approval to anything other than the Words of the Old Testament. In contrast, the tradition of the scribes and Pharisees, which was supposedly derived from scripture, wherein hundreds of laws were created, was never supported as being authoritative. In those cases, He referred to them as, "you have heard" and then went on to correct their misapplication of scripture by saying, "but I say" to demonstrate the intent of the Old Testament scriptures.

Likewise, I wish that our traditional teachings would never be considered the Word of God by anyone in the Church, but that appears to be just wishful thinking.

When Christ wanted to prove a point he used phrases like "it is written" (18x), or "the scriptures", "the law", "the prophets" or "the law and the prophets". He never used those phrases except to refer to the Old Testament scriptures.

In response to Satan, Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*'" *Luke 4:4* His teaching demonstrated His belief in every Word of the Old Testament as the Word of God.

Some today argue whether or not the Old Testament is still applicable to us today. Jesus never wondered about it. He taught that He came not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them. In addition, He said, "not the smallest letter would disappear until all is fulfilled." (*Matthew 5:18*)

This is difficult for some because they read in Hebrews that there was a change in the covenant, the priesthood, the temple and the sacrifices, and if not one letter would disappear how could this be? They see that as a contradiction, because they are not familiar enough with the Old Testament scriptures. The prophets foretold: Christ sacrifice and a new covenant. This new covenant was demonstrated with a different symbol than circumcision, with a different sacrifice, and a different memorial Passover service. None of this changed the laws someone was to live by, the character desired and the love one should have for God or his neighbour. The High Priest and Holy of Holies was patterned off of what is in heaven and we now have access directly to God in Heaven through Christ. The writer of Hebrews painstakingly demonstrates to the Jews how Christ fulfills the words of the prophets making them applicable to this day.

Now let's look at some examples as to how Jesus displayed the authority of the Old Testament scriptures:

In *Matthew 19:4-5* He introduced the words of *Genesis 2:24* with "He who made them ...said". In *Genesis* the words are not specifically given as the Words of the Creator, so some conclude that it was just the writers words. Jesus claimed they were the words of God.

In *Matthew 15:4* Jesus said, "God said, "Honour your father and mother...". Jesus did not say Moses said in quoting from Exodus, but God said.

John 10:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? The whole argument Jesus makes is based on the trustworthiness of the Old Testament.

Now let's contrast that with what Jesus said about the traditional teachings of the scribes and Pharisees. *Matthew 5:43* "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' Jesus went on to explain a different meaning than what they heard. Was He contradicting the Old Testament scriptures as some suggest? Or was He explaining how they had twisted the Scriptures? In the Old Testament you will find "love your neighbor", but you will not find "hate your enemy". In fact you are told to care for your enemies animal if he has lost it until it is returned. When referring to their laws He never used the expression "it is written" but "it was said".

No one can claim the authority of God when they take His words and wrest them out of context and forcing them to say something that God never intended and adding their own words into it. That is what was done with the Koran, as parts were taken from the Bible and twisted. That is what has been done in various versions of the Bible, in particular, a politically correct version of the Bible that refuses to acknowledge God as Father. The original writings are what Jesus thought were the Words of God and not the religious writings that were added to it and twisted.

Another claim some have made is that Jesus didn't really believe the Old Testament was the Word of God or that it's history is accurate but to accommodate the primitive Jews that held onto that myth He therefore based his arguments on Old Testament scripture. There are a couple of things to note about this idea. There is ABSOLUTELY no proof that this is true, it is solely a theory. That theory would require that you believe that Jesus willfully lied and misled the people into believing the Old Testament was accurate when He knew it not to be. Where else did this man who claimed he spoke and was the truth then lie?

This theory is ridiculous as the Apostles claimed he taught them from the Old Testament all that pertained to Him, as if it were the Word of God and authoritative, after his resurrection. Jesus never once gave even the slightest hint that He believed the Old Testament or the creation account was a myth, but recounted it as if it were the Word of God.

Reference	History	Old Testament Reference	Teaching
Matt 19:4-5	Adam and Eve	Genesis 1:27;2:24	Marriage
Luke 17:26-27	Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6-8	Christ's Second Coming
John 8:56-58	Abraham	Genesis 15-25	Deity and Eternity of Christ
Mark 7:9-10	Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:12	Family Duty
Mark 2:25-26	David & the Bread	1 Samuel 21	Sabbath
Luke 4:27	Elisha and Naaman	2 Kings 5	Miracles

From the beginning of his ministry to the end, Jesus claimed his authority through the Old Testament scriptures. He started his ministry with:

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,*

*To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." *Luke 4:16-21*

He ended his ministry with:

"Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things." *Luke 24:44-48*

Jesus primary use of the Old Testament was to say, "These are the scriptures that testify of me". He stated on the other hand that ignorance of the scriptures was the chief cause for blindness about Him and what he taught. *Matthew 22:29* Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Some claim you don't have a choice if you hear the Word of God or not. Your salvation is totally up to God to open your eyes and see but that isn't what the Word of God says and it isn't what Jesus quoted as the Word of God. *Matthew 13:14-15* And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

*'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'*

This passage is quoted three times in the New Testament. It states they have closed their eyes, their hears and their hearts aren't interested. If they were interested, they would see and they would hear and God would heal them.

I would like to end this article with the scripture contained in *Matthew 22:34-45*.

"But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."In this part of the scripture he simply tells them what the Word of God is truly about: love of God and love of neighbour. "

We recognize that if you loved your neighbour you would tell them it wasn't healthy to smoke. Likewise if you loved your neighbour you would tell them it wasn't healthy to commit acts of homosexuality, sexual immorality, steal, be envious, jealous, lazy, dishonest, etc. This love is what the Bible is about. After hearing his answer they started to scheme again to trick him up some how when he interrupted them with a question.

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”

They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?”

If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

The clear implication of this passage is that the Lord is more than simply a descendent of the great Israelite King, David. He is the son in whom the promise is given. The son displayed to Abraham as the one to be offered as a sacrifice and yet lives to be a blessing to the World IF they have a heart humble enough to consider the Words of God. He is the Son of God!