

How Christ Used the Hebrew Scriptures

100
OLD TESTAMENT
QUOTES
by JESUS



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Jesus and the OLD TESTAMENT

Numerous times in the New Testament, Jesus directs his listeners to prophecies, stories, people, and imagery from the Old Testament. As we watch Jesus teach, we can get a picture of how he viewed and used the Scriptures.

Jesus held the Scriptures in the highest regard.

Like most Jews of his day, he considered the Scriptures to be the primary source for knowledge of God and the guide for godly behavior. For example, when a religious expert asked Jesus how he could receive eternal life, Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law [Scripture]?... How do you read it?” (Luke 10:26). He criticized the Sadducees because they did “not know the Scriptures” (Matt. 22:29) and he called out the Pharisees for their lack of biblical understanding: “Have you never read in the Scriptures ...?” (Matt. 21:42). Jesus insisted that “Scripture cannot be set aside” (John 10:35) and that “not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matt. 5:18).

Jesus accepted the books of the Hebrew canon as authoritative.

While Christians have historically divided the Old Testament canon into five sections: Law, History, Wisdom, Major and Minor Prophets; Jews divided it into three: Law, Prophets, and Writings (or Psalms). Jesus referred to all three of these sections and only quoted from canonical books of the Hebrew Scriptures (Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:44).

Jesus saw himself as having unique authority to interpret Scripture, as well as to introduce new revelation.

Jesus’ right to do this is based on the new covenant he inaugurated with his sacrificial death and resurrection (Jer. 31:31; Luke 22:20). For example, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus corrects several common misinterpretations of Scripture by stating, “You have heard that it was said ... but I tell you ...” (Matt. 5:21–48). Breaking from Old Testament laws about unclean foods, Jesus “declared all foods clean” (Mark 7:19). He astonished his listeners and claimed the Scriptures would be fulfilled in him; in fact, that’s the very reason he came (Matt. 5:17).



	JESUS CHRIST	OLD TESTAMENT
1	When tempted by Satan to turn stones into bread, Jesus replied with Scripture: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” MATT. 4:4; LUKE 4:4	Moses said this to the Israelites to explain that God allowed them to face hunger in the wilderness so they would learn to rely on the word of the Lord. DEUT. 8:3
2	When Satan told Jesus to prove he was the Son of God, Jesus replied with Scripture: “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” MATT. 4:7; LUKE 4:12	With these words, Moses warned the Israelites not to test the Lord. DEUT. 6:16 (EX. 17:2)
3	When Satan offered Jesus the world if Jesus would worship him, Jesus replied with Scripture: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” MATT. 4:10; LUKE 4:8	Before the Israelites entered the promised land, Moses urged them to “fear the LORD your God [and] serve him only.” DEUT. 6:13
4	“You will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.” JOHN 1:51	Like the stairway with angels reaching to heaven in Jacob’s dream, Jesus is the one who connects heaven and earth. GEN. 28:12
5	“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” JOHN 3:14-15	Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole, and if anyone was bitten, they could look at the bronze snake and be healed. NUM. 21:4-9
6	Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue and stated that these verses about the Messiah were fulfilled in him. LUKE 4:18-19	“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me ... to proclaim good news to the poor ... freedom for the captives ... the year of the LORD’s favor.” ISA. 61:1-2
7	Jesus told an official, “Unless you people see signs and wonders ... you will never believe.” JOHN 4:48	King Nebuchadnezzar believed after he witnessed “the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed.” DAN. 4:2-3
8	Jesus foreshadowed the preaching of the gospel to the gentiles by citing the example of the widow of Zarephath. LUKE 4:24-26	God sent Elijah to a gentile widow outside of Israel to provide food for her household. 1 KINGS 17:8-24



	JESUS CHRIST	OLD TESTAMENT
9	Jesus foreshadowed the preaching of the gospel to the gentiles by citing the healing of Naaman the Syrian. LUKE 4:27	"[Naaman] went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored." 2 KINGS 5:1-14
10	Jesus said that Moses's writings speak of him, and he referred to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible as "the Book of Moses." JOHN 5:46-47 ; MARK 12:26	"Moses wrote down this law and gave it ... to all the elders of Israel." DEUT. 31:9
11	When the Pharisees questioned why Jesus dined with "sinners," he quoted from the book of Hosea. MATT. 9:13	"I desire mercy, not sacrifice." HOS. 6:6
12	"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." MATT. 5:4 ; LUKE 6:21	"The LORD has anointed me ... to comfort all who mourn." ISA. 61:1, 3
13	"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." MATT. 5:5	"But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity." PS. 37:11
14	"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." MATT. 5:6 ; LUKE 6:21	"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" ISA. 55:1-2 (PS. 42:2)
15	"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." MATT. 5:8	"Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?... The one who has clean hands and a pure heart." PS. 24:3-4
16	"Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep." LUKE 6:25	"My servants will eat, but you will go hungry.... My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame." ISA. 65:13
17	Jesus extended the sixth commandment beyond actions to matters of the heart. MATT. 5:21-22 (MATT. 19:18 ; MARK 10:19 ; LUKE 18:20)	"You shall not murder." EX. 20:13 ; DEUT. 5:17
18	Jesus extended the seventh commandment to show that thoughts make one just as guilty. MATT. 5:27-28 (MATT. 19:18 ; MARK 10:19 ; LUKE 18:20)	"You shall not commit adultery." EX. 20:14 ; DEUT. 5:18