

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 1: Introduction – Jesus is The Word of God

Aim: Relate Luke 24:27 to the Old Testament, and show how Jesus is seen throughout the OT beginning in Genesis 1:1 and continuing through various Types of people and events.

Key Scriptures: Luke 24:27; Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-3, 14.

Our latest study has as its genesis, Jesus's conversation with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke chapter 24. In our study we will begin where Jesus began, with Moses, and it is my prayer that our hearts will burn within us as the Holy Spirit opens the Scriptures to us (24:32). Each lesson is taken from the study of the same name that I am currently writing for the children at Cornerstone. As a result some of the questions will be fairly rudimentary and basic. However, what this study will do is give you ample opportunity to go beyond that which it contains and present to the group evidence of your enhanced study, where it is appropriate.

Let's begin with prayer.

On the day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead He joined two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a journey of 7 miles. The 2 disciples did not recognize Him, and the conversation went like this:

Luke 24:17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Q: What did the disciples hope Jesus, who they recognized as a Prophet mighty in deed and word, was going to do?

A:

Q: Which day was it?

A:

Q: Any thoughts as to why they mentioned that?

A:

By the way that they recounted what had happened at the tomb, as well as by their sadness, they showed their lack of understanding of the Scriptures. How did Jesus describe them in v.25?

A:

Q: According to v. 26, what should they have understood about the events of the past 3 days?

A:

Re-read v.27:

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Q: What did Jesus do to correct the two disciples' thinking and open their understanding concerning Himself?

A:

Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible beginning with Genesis. (He was also a prophet.) So Jesus used Moses' writings, the books of the Prophets, and in fact, "all the Scriptures" to show things concerning Himself. At that time, that would have been **all of the Old Testament** from **Genesis to Malachi**.

Have you ever wondered what exactly Jesus shared from the Old Testament about Himself? For example, where do we even see His name mentioned in the Old Testament?

The name **Jesus** is not there. Jesus is the English version of the **Greek** name **lesous**, which we get from the New Testament that was written in Greek. The Old Testament, on the other hand, was written in **Hebrew**, the language of the Jews, and **lesous** is the ancient Greek form of the Hebrew name **Yeshua** which is closely related to the Hebrew name **Joshua**.

We know that there are at least 2 individuals named 'Joshua' in the OT. There was Joshua who was Moses' assistant, who led the 2nd generation of the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. Then there was a Joshua who, along with Zerubbabel, led a group of captives back into the land after the Babylonian captivity. Both men picture an event yet future when Christ will lead the Children of Israel back into their Promised Land, never to be scattered again.

Q: In addition to the 2 men named Joshua, how else might we see Jesus revealed in the OT?

A:

Jesus expounded to the 2 disciples things in all the Scriptures, which means He is seen in some facet throughout all of the OT, and the use of Types is one obvious way.

At our conference this year the children had 5 lessons on 'Joseph as a Type of Christ', and there are so many details in his life that point to Jesus, that it is almost impossible not to see the similarities!

Another way that Jesus can be identified in the OT is through the use of a title, such as **Messiah**, **Prophet**, **Lord** or **Holy One**, to name just a few. The context of each use will reveal whether the title is referring to Jesus the Son of God, or of God the Father Himself. As we go through our study we will see some examples that will make it very clear Who is being referred to: the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Began With Moses

And so, as Jesus began with Moses, we shall also begin where Jesus began, AND where Moses began:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was [lit. 'became'] without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 Then God said

In these verses, where do you think we might see Jesus? There's a reference to God and also the Spirit of God, so how might we know if God the Son is involved in the events of the very first verses of all of Scripture? Any thoughts?

If you said or were thinking '*by comparing Scripture with Scripture*' you are correct. Well done!

Q: Where else could we go in our Bibles to find a reference to the very same event?

A:

As you study through these next verses put down on the right hand side any cross references that come to mind.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Q: What was in the beginning with God according to v.1?

A:

Q: What was the Word, again according to v.1?

A:

Q: In v.2 we can see that the Word is 'He'. According to v.3 what did 'He', 'the Word', do in the beginning?

A:

Q: How do verses 4 to 9 take us back to Genesis chapter 1?

A:

In v.10 we can see that 'He' was in the world, the very world which 'He' had created and made, and if we drop down to v.14 we can clearly see *how* 'He' was in the world. Let's read it again:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Q: So who is the Word who became flesh and dwelt upon the earth amongst men?

A:

The only Word that was available at the time of John writing was the Old Testament Scriptures. So imagine it this way: if you were to take all the Words from Genesis to Malachi in your Bibles, then you have Jesus in a written form. And it was this written Word that became flesh and came in the likeness of a man. (c.f. *Rom.8:3; 2 Cor.5:2; Phil.2:7*) In fact, the Word of God is described as 'living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword' in Hebrews 4:12, but then in the next verse it clearly shows that it is a Man:

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from **His** sight,*

If we now return to where Moses and Jesus began, it becomes clear that Jesus, the Word of God, was there in the beginning with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

But as well as Jesus being the Written Word in the flesh, He is also the Spoken Word of God:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth became without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

*3 Then God said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was light.*

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 Then God said

According to John's gospel Jesus is the Word of God, so when '*God said...*' – when He spoke those words in the beginning - **Jesus is that spoken Word**. The heavens and the earth were created through the action of God speaking things in to existence. Wow! That's huge! And if you can grasp that, then well done! You might enjoy reading through the first chapter of Genesis and see how many times it states, '*God said...*'. And then look and see what was created as a result of God speaking.

As we finish this introductory lesson on Jesus in the Old Testament, we have seen that the first place Jesus could have gone to show the 2 disciples who were '*foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the Prophets had spoken*', was Genesis chapter 1, verse 1. And although John's gospel had not been written then, that proves Jesus was there in the beginning with God. There are also other OT Scriptures to confirm it:

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

The Apostle John also wrote the following in his first letter:

***1John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.** (We will leave a discussion on understanding the Trinity for another day!)*

And in the Book of Revelation, John wrote:

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

*13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God.***

As we go through our study we will continue with the books written by Moses, and we will look at the Prophets. And after what we have studied today, we now know that all the Old Testament Scriptures will reveal something about Christ because He IS those very Scriptures in a bodily form.

Today we have only scratched the surface of what the Bible reveals concerning Jesus being 'The Word of God'. We are not going to camp out here because our mandate is to discover various places in the OT Jesus could have gone to explain to the 'foolish and slow of heart' disciples, things concerning Himself. Next lesson we will look at Adam, who is 'a type of Him who was to come' (Rom.5:14).

For Homework I want you to memorize Luke 24:27. You will FOREVER be glad that you did!

*Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them **in all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.*

Let's Pray.