



World Christian Fellowship

www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Christ in Old Testament 02 Disciples and Apostle believed in Christ

The apostles and disciples came to believe Jesus as their Messiah, fully only when they understood the Old Testament.

Matthew 5:17-18, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

His story is in the New Testament, but His Bible was the Old Testament. The only Bible that Jesus ever had was the Old Testament. He was gone before any of the New Testament was ever written.

His Bible was the Old Testament and it was constantly on His holy mind.

As a child He was growing in wisdom and stature, and favour with God and man. He was growing, learning the Word of God,

He was being taught the Word of God. He was reading the Scripture and He was absorbing the Scripture.

He was the Son of God, He was free from doubt. Because He had perfect knowledge, He had perfect trust. He had perfect faith in the Father, and He knew the Word because it was His own very Word proceeding from Himself as God.

Jesus had a perfect knowledge of the content and the interpretation of the Scripture. Since He had a perfect knowledge of the content of the scripture and application in every situation.

All His thoughts, words and all His actions were in direct correspondence to the Word of God.

People didn't follow Jesus only because of his miracles—they also followed him because he knew how to handle the Old Testament.

Jesus used many Old Testament passages, Let me give you Jesus quoted most from the OT books.

Exodus:

Jesus quotes Exodus 7, seven times, usually referencing the laws God gives Israel in the wilderness, especially the Ten Commandments:

- Jesus references the burning bush incident when explaining the resurrection (Exodus 3:6; Matthew 22:32; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37).
- Jesus recalls the Ten Commandments when telling a rich man how to enter the kingdom of God (Exodus 20:12–16; Matthew 19:18–19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20).
- Jesus mentions the fifth commandment (honouring parents) when exposing the Pharisees’ and scribes’ hypocrisy (Exodus 20:12, 21:17; Matthew 15:4; Mark 7:10).
- Jesus Semon on the Mount quotes the commandments against murder and adultery. (Exodus 20:12–13; Matthew 5:21, 27).
- Jesus quotes the famous “eye for an eye” line right before telling his disciples to turn the other cheek (Exodus 21:24; Matthew 5:38).

Isaiah:

Jesus quotes the book of Isaiah, 8, eight times during His ministry. Isaiah was a prophet who wrote about the coming judgment of both Israel’s kingdoms and the comfort that God would bring to his people afterward.

Jesus quotes Isaiah to describe the disconnect between the people and their God.

- Jesus speaks in parables, fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy concerning “eyes that do not see” and “ears that do not hear” (Isaiah 6:9–10; Matthew 13:14–15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10).
- When Jesus turns over the tables in the temple, he references Isaiah’s words on how the house of God was intended to operate (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46).
- Jesus calls the Pharisees and scribes for their lip service to God. They honour God with their words, but their hearts are far from Him (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8–9; Mark 7:6–7).
- Jesus alludes to Isaiah in His parable of the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1; Matthew 21:33; Mark 12:1; Luke 20:9).
- Jesus quotes Isaiah’s prophecy that Jesus would die a sinner’s death (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 22:37).
- His salvation ministry allows the people to be taught of God (Isaiah 54:13; John 6:45).
- Jesus heals the blind and brings good news to the afflicted (Isaiah 61:1–2; Matthew 11:5; Luke 4:18–19, 7:22).

Jesus quotes Isaiah to highlight the disconnect between God and the people, but he also quotes Isaiah to remind people of the comfort God will bring through him.

Deuteronomy:

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy on 10, ten occasions in the gospels, and it's the only OT book Jesus quotes when He speaks to the devil.

- Jesus sums up the law and the prophets with a line from Deuteronomy (and another from Leviticus): love God, and love your neighbor as yourself (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:29–33; Luke 10:27).
- The Ten Commandments are in both Exodus and Deuteronomy: Jesus references both books when he cites the commandments.
- Jesus references Deuteronomy when he discusses divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1–3; Matthew 5:31, 19:7; Mark 10:4).
- He mentions Moses' rule of witnesses when he outlines church discipline (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16).
- When Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus responds with passages from Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 6:13, 16, 8:3; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4, 8, 12).

Psalms

Jesus quotes the Psalms on 11 occasions:

- Jesus outwits the Pharisees with the Psalms on several occasions (Psalms 8:2, 110:1; Matthew 21:16, 22:44; Mark 12:36, 14:62; Luke 20:42–43).
- He quotes the twenty-second Psalm while dying on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalms 22:1; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).
- Jesus then fulfills the 31st Psalm by committing His spirit to the Father (Psalms 31:5; Luke 23:46).
- Jesus is hated without cause, which He says the Psalms foretold (Psalms 35:19, 69:4; John 15:25).
- Jesus quotes the Psalms when talking about His betrayal (Psalms 41:9; John 13:18).
- Jesus recalls the manna in the wilderness after feeding a multitude (Psalms 78:24; John 6:31).
- When the Jews want to stone Jesus for claiming to be God, he responds with a line Psalms (Psalms 82:6; John 10:34).
- Jesus quotes Psalm 110 when Pilate asks if he is the son of God (Psalms 110:1; Matthew 26:64).
- He quotes Psalms to the chief priests and elders, calling himself the chief cornerstone (Psalms 118:22–23; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17).
- Jesus references Psalms when foretelling Jerusalem’s destruction (Psalms 118:26; Matthew 23:39; Luke 13:35).

Jesus refers,
The creation of man.
The institution of marriage.
History of Noah.
Story of Abraham.
Story of Lot.
The overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah.
Appearing that God had to Moses in the burning bush.
Manna in the wilderness.
The ceremonial law.
Purification of lepers
The brazen serpent.
The law regarding vows.
The widow of Zarapeth.
David escape to High Priest.
Queen of Sheeba visit to Solomon.
Healing of Naaman.
Killing of Zecharaiah.

Jesus says, "Have you not read?" referring to the Old Testament.

"Is it not written?" referring to the Old Testament.

Jesus says, "The Scripture cannot be broken," referring to the Old Testament.

He says, "The Scriptures testify of Me."

He says, "The Scripture must be fulfilled."

These are constant assertions and the Scripture He was talking about is the only Bible He had that is the Old Testament.

Question concerning the resurrection, Jesus said, "You do err not knowing the Scriptures. God is not the God of the dead but of the living." Our Lord there attributed the skepticism of the Sadducees to their not understanding the Scripture.

The strongest testimony of all, which Christ bore to the Old Testament, has to do with His resurrection.

On the very day that He arose, He ends up on the road to Emmaus, and comes across these two disciples.

Turn to Luke 24.

Luke 24:15-17, *So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"*

These are disciples of Jesus. They are not numbered among the eleven, they are two followers of Jesus who believed in Him and followed Him. There were a lot more than the eleven. On the day of Pentecost, there are a hundred and twenty in Jerusalem; So they are in confusion.

Luke 24:18-24, *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.”

They believe He is the Messiah.

They believe He is a prophet, they say that.

They affirm that He is a prophet mighty in deed and Word in the sight of God and all the people.

So they have put their trust in Him as this great prophet.

Beginning at Moses and all the prophets He expounded to them all that Scripture says concerning Himself. He went in to Moses, the Prophets, and the Holy Writings – the three Jewish sections of the Old Testament.

They don't have any place in their theology for the death of Messiah. That doesn't fit in their theology, a dead, crucified Messiah rejected by the leaders of Israel, and executed by

Gentiles. It just doesn't fit their Messianic theology. So now the death of Jesus Christ has sent them into confusion.

Peter turns into a denier and rest of the disciples all flee.

Zechariah 13:7, *Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!* declares the Lord Almighty. *'Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.'*

Jesus told them about it

Matthew 26:31, *Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

Exactly that was happened.

The Lord is going to solve their dilemma.

This disciples have very clear knowledge of Jesus death but they have somewhat hazy knowledge of His resurrection.

The word was floating around some women came to the tomb and He wasn't there. They talked to some angels and they don't know what was going on exactly.

They know for sure He died, they don't know that He rose.

They don't know how this can possibly fit their messianic picture.

They have been trained and taught and raised in a Judaism that saw Messiah as a conquering hero, as one who would come and vanquish all the enemies, establish His glorious rule in Jerusalem and extend it across the globe. That did not happen instead, He was dead, and they don't know if He has risen as He said.

Jesus need to move them from doubt to faith?

How Jesus is going to get them from confusion to confidence?

How is He going to have their faith rock solid on Him as the Messiah and Redeemer of Israel and the world?

Answer: He must give them an accurate understanding of The Old Testament.

Luke 24:25, *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"*

It isn't that they are rebellious, but just dull, slow of heart, block-headed, thick-headed. It is an ignorance born of an unwilling spirit.

The idea of Messiah being rejected by the leaders of the nation, by His own people, and made Him crucified by the Romans,— just does not make sense, and they don't want to hear it.

Matthew 16:21, *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at*

the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Jesus said that to them, again and again almost 14 times. Yet these guys on the road to Emmaus are having trouble with the idea that the chief priests arrested Him and crucified Him.

Matthew 16:22, *Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"*

Even when Jesus said it, even when He repeated it, they refused to hear it. But they were on lockdown in their messianic theology and there was just no way to break it up.

Matthew 16:23, *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."*

This is the problem: They wanted a kingdom, they wanted glory, they wanted elevation.

James and John going to Jesus with their mother to get to sit on the right and the left hand in the kingdom. That was man's interest.

This idea of death had no place in their system so their anticipation of Messiah made them hard against the truth of His death.

Luke 24:26, *Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"*

Two things to happen:

1. Christ to suffer these things
2. To enter into His glory.

Isn't that what the prophets, a divine necessity, for Christ to suffer these things?

Isn't blood atonement all over the Old Testament?

Isn't it everywhere in the Old Testament?

Isn't the whole Old Testament just literally saturated with blood, and yet no sacrifice ever satisfies?

Doesn't the Old Testament communicate substitutionary death, sacrifice, an atonement to satisfy God for sin, and yet there's never a final one, and repeating?

Doesn't the Bible tell you that God slew an animal to cover Adam and Eve?

Doesn't the Bible tell you that God rejected Cain's offering and established blood sacrifice as the only symbol of atonement?

Aren't there sin offerings and blood sacrifices through the whole history of Israel, including the Day of Atonement as well as the Mosaic provision for a morning sacrifice and an evening sacrifice?

The bloody death of animal substitutes fill the whole history of God's people. What's not clear about that?

In order for Abraham to save his own son, an innocent sacrifice had to be offered in Isaac's place. What's not clear about that? Blood sacrifice is the only way.

Even in the books of Leviticus,

Leviticus 17:11, *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

It is the blood of by reason of the life that makes atonement. It is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.

Every Jew knew that, that sin brought death, and that God would provide a substitute. The substitute was pictured, but the substitute had never come. They knew that none of their works, none of their own achievements or religious activities could take away their sin. But at the same time, they knew that there was no final, sufficient sacrifice who would ever come forward. There was no perfect sacrifice. But all of that pointed to the Messiah.

The Old Testament is loaded with testimony that the Messiah is going to be that final sacrifice.

Second point, to enter into His glory. They got about glory, about the elevation of Messiah to be exalted, reigning and

ruling in Jerusalem, extending His kingdom throughout the world and forever.

They understood that part.

So how were they going to get the suffering and the glory connected?

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

Jesus went into all the sections of the Old Testament, from Moses to Malachi, thirty-nine books, and He taught the things concerning Himself.

- He traces His coming,
- His suffering,
- His resurrection, and
- His glory through.

Jesus expounding the only Bible He ever owned, ever had, ever read, explaining the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. He grounds them in the Old Testament prophecies of Messiah, which then become the foundation on which their faith can stand.

What did He say?

Started in **Genesis 3:15**?

Genesis 3:15, *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

He identified Himself as the seed of the woman, who would be bruised, who would be wounded, meaning His death, but He would crush the serpent’s head.

Next **Genesis 3:21**?

Genesis 3:21, *The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them*

When God killed an animal and used the skin of the animal to cover the guilt of Adam and Eve, that was a picture of the fact that He would be the sacrifice to provide the covering for sinners.

Next to **Genesis 4:4**? *And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,*

The acceptable sacrifice offered by Abel was a picture of His acceptable sacrifice to come, a sacrifice of blood and death.

Genesis chapters 6, 7 and 8, the story of the flood and said that He is the true ark of safety who delivers His people through the waters of judgment.

Genesis 8:20-22, *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²² “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”*

He is the one laid on the altar after Noah came out and offered a sacrifice to God, a picture of Him.

Genesis 22, That the ram caught in the bush who substituted for Isaac was a picture of Him.

Exodus 12 The Passover Lamb slain, blood painted on the doors at the great deliverance, the redemption of Israel from Egypt is a picture of Jesus.

He is the Passover Lamb. John the Baptist said that in **John 1:29**, *“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”*

Exodus 16, I am the true manna, because that is what He said in John 6.

Exodus chapters 17, Numbers chapter 20, shows Jesus was the Rock.

Leviticus first 7 chapters, all the sacrificial offerings, the burnt offering, the peace offering, the sin offering all picture about Him.

Deuteronomy chapter 18 where Moses predicts a prophet that will come.

Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18, ¹⁵ *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.*

¹⁸ *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him*

Deuteronomy chapters 21, 22, and 23 that He is the one who being hanged on a tree would be cursed by God.

Psalm 16:10, when He dies His body would not decay. He would not suffer corruption, but He would be raised from the dead.

Psalm 22, describes the crucifixion of the one who will be a reproach, who will be scorned, sneered at, His bones out of joint, His strength gone, His hands and feet pierced, His clothes divided up by lots as He hangs in death.

Psalm 22, a graphic picture of the cross.

Psalm 69, He would be the one who would be given vinegar to drink.

Psalm 34:20, “Not a bone of His body will be broken,” and none was, because He was already dead.

Psalm 40:7,

That describes Him. That's all He delighted in, doing the will of God and the law of God dominated His heart.

Psalm 41:9, He would be betrayed by a friend.

Psalm 68, Jesus ascension.

Psalms 69:9, He would be hated for no reason

Isaiah 50:6,

Isaiah 53, He was the one wounded for their transgressions, bruised for their iniquities, chastised for their peace. He was the Lamb led to slaughter.

He would be buried with the rich; and He ended up in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea.

Zechariah 11:12, He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:13, the money would be then taken and thrown on the temple floor, and then used to buy a potter's field.

Zechariah 12:10, *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*

The lesson must have been a staggering lesson!

- ❖ How could they have been so ignorant when there is so much there?

- ❖ How could YOU have been so ignorant when there is so much there?
 - How could they have been so foolish when the Old Testament was so much about Him?
 - How could YOU have been so foolish when the Old Testament was so much about Him?

Luke 24:28-32, *Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

Jesus went inside the Old Testament to explain Himself. Their eyes were opened, for the first time in their lives they understood the Old Testament.

The Lord was alive from the dead, and so was the Old Testament.

That same day, seven miles away, meanwhile back in Jerusalem, the eleven are gathered together, and these guys are so excited that they just bolt, though it's late.

They arrive there and they have to told the disciples what took place.

Luke 24:36-41, *Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." ³⁷But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. ³⁸And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." ⁴⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"*

Verse 41, "They still couldn't believe."

Didn't Jesus say that?

Remember last week lesson on Luke 16?

Luke 16:29-31, *"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'*

³¹ *“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

So here is a risen Christ standing in front of them, and they can't believe it, because they are so locked down to their understanding of Scripture.

Until their understanding of Scripture changes, they were not going to understand the resurrection of the Christ who stands right in front of them, whose hands and feet they were touching.

Luke 24:41-43, *But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?”* ⁴² *So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.* ⁴³ *And He took it and ate in their presence.*

So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate it. He was trying to show them that He is not come kind of spirit, not some kind of vision, not some kind of sort of collective mysterious experience.

Luke 24:44-45, *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.”* ⁴⁵ *And He*

opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Here Jesus repeated what He had done in Emmaus.

All of us meager human teachers try to open your mind to understand the Scripture but Christ the expositor!

Luke 24:46-47, *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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

So, Christ would suffer, rise from the dead the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sin would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things.

The disciples of Jesus believed in Him because they understood the Old Testament. They put all the historical pieces with all the prophetic pieces and it had to be Jesus. They saw the full picture of the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Jesus did it on the road to Emmaus in a few hours. He probably did it that night in a few hours. It could take us years.

Conclusion:

Understanding the Bible creates a burning heart!

Luke 24:32, *And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

Burning with

- ✓ gratitude,
- ✓ joy,
- ✓ exhilaration,
- ✓ hope,
- ✓ confidence,
- ✓ faith,
- ✓ enthusiasm, and
- ✓ excitement.

The better you understand Scripture, the more joy you have, because the more you understand God's 24 marvelous purposes for you in Christ.

Joy goes to next level.

Luke 24:50-53, *And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.*

Have joy.

Have great joy that produces verse 53.

They were continually in the temple Praising God!

Clarity with regard to Scripture, knowledge of Scripture, the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the full picture of Him that's presented Old Testament and New Testament.

He is the express image of God, the exact reproduction of His person, the fullness of God. Seeing Him in all His glory produces joy unspeakable and full of glory.

This will make you to worship with greater joy and greater exuberance and greater gratitude with all your powers, because you see Christ in all His glory.