

Jesus and the Scriptures

Intro:

1. General attitudes: Bible is flawed by age, translation; mixture of truth and legends, myths; either vague guidelines or culturally irrelevant; a product of humans only.
2. By time of Jesus, Law was 1500 yrs. old. Jesus refers to it as accurate, authoritative and living document.

1. How Did Jesus View the Scriptures?

A. Historically accurate:

1. Adam/Eve/creation – Mt 19:4-6.
2. Abel – Mt 23:35.
3. Noah/ark/flood – Mt 24:37-39.
4. Abraham/Isaac/Jacob – Mt 22:32 (even draws inference from verb tense).
5. Lot/Sodom/Lot's wife – Lk 17:28-29, 32.
6. Moses – serpents (Jn 3:14); manna (Jn 6:32); "they have Moses" (Lk 16:29); allowance of divorce (Mt 19:8); purification rites (Mt 8:4).
7. David; quotes Ps 110 as accurate writing – Mt 22:43-44.
8. Solomon – Mt 6:29; Queen of Sheba's visit – Mt 12:42.
9. Jonah – Mt 12:39-41.
10. Daniel's "abomination of desolation" – Mt 24:15.

B. Authority: Law and Prophets still binding.

1. Not one jot or tittle will fail till *all* is fulfilled – Mt 5:17-18.
2. Prophetic certainty – "*This which is written must still be accomplished*" (Lk 22:37); "*in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled*" (Mt 13:14); "*how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?*" (Mt 26:54, 56). The Scriptures testified of Jesus (Jn 5:39; Lk 24:44-45).

3. Scripture cannot be broken – Jn 10:35.

C. Spiritual fortification – Mt 4:1-11.

1. Jesus resisted Satan with “*it is written*” (citing Deuteronomy; Mt 4:4, 7, 10).
“Perfect passive indicative, stands written and is still in force” (ATR, Vol 1, p 31).
2. In a time of great stress, emotional upheaval, our own judgment can be skewed.
We must tenaciously grasp the objective, timeless declarations of Scripture.
3. **Illus:** In a storm, pilots get vertigo; they must watch instruments.

2. Jesus Rejected Man-Made Traditions and Unauthorized Additions

- A. On six occasions He or disciples accused of violating Sabbath (Mk 2:23-38; 3:1-6; Lk 13:10-17; 14:1-6; Jn 5:2-19; 9:1-41). He even deliberately healed on the Sabbath, daring the Pharisees to openly declare that healing was unlawful (Mk 3:4).
- B. He defended disciples’ failure to wash hands “*according to the tradition of the elders*” (Mk 7:1-16). Such traditions are wrong when they rise to the level of law, or especially when they make “*the word of God of no effect*” (7:13).
- C. Such rigid traditionalism is characteristic of conservative people who place great emphasis upon authority (us). *Repetition is not wrong until it becomes rule.* The danger is to scrupulously observe traditional and miss the greater principles.

3. Jesus Chided Ignorance of Scriptures

- A. Various challenges to the ignorance of Jewish “scholars”:
 1. “*Did you never read in the Scriptures ...?*” (Mt 21:42; cf. Mt 19:4; 21:16).
 2. “*Have you never read what was spoken to you by God ...?*” (Mt 22:31).
 3. “*If you had known what this means ... you would not have condemned*” (Mt 12:7).
- B. So ignorant were the Jewish leaders that they unwittingly fulfilled prophecy concerning Jesus, thus further assuring His true identity (cf. Jn 11:49-52).
- C. “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” (Lk 23:34).

Conclusion: We are not a reading society; no desire for contemplation, reflection. We have too long depended upon fill-in-the-blank lessons. We have rested upon the laurels of the institutional issues. Elders must take the lead in charting course for aggressive, methodical and purposeful study of the Scriptures. We live in an age of subjectivism; **we need the objective guidance of God’s word.**