

JESUS AND THE APOSTLES' VIEW OF THE BIBLE



The Bible didn't exist as we know it today when Jesus began His ministry. The New Testament had not been written yet.

Therefore, we could say that the Bible of Jesus and the apostles was the Old Testament. This part of the Bible was known as "The Scriptures".

Let's study how Jesus and the apostles used the Scriptures, so we can understand how we should use and understand the Bible today.



- 🔮 How did Jesus use the Bible?
 - ➡ The Bible as authority
 - ➡ The Bible as a guide to life
- 💎 What parts of the Bible did Jesus accept?
 - ➡ The Bible in its entirety
 - ➡ The Bible as actual history
- 💎 How did the apostles use the Bible?
 - ➡ The Bible as the Word of God

THE BIBLE AS AUTHORITY

"It is written..." (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4, 8, 12)

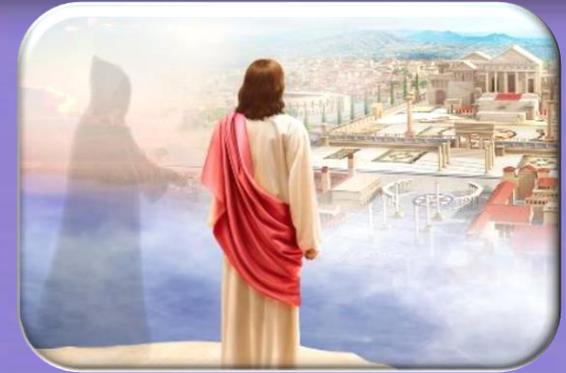
Jesus was tempted in a special way by Satan just before beginning His ministry. Jesus countered each temptation with a Biblical quote:



When tempted with the *appetite*: "man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord" (Dt. 8:3)



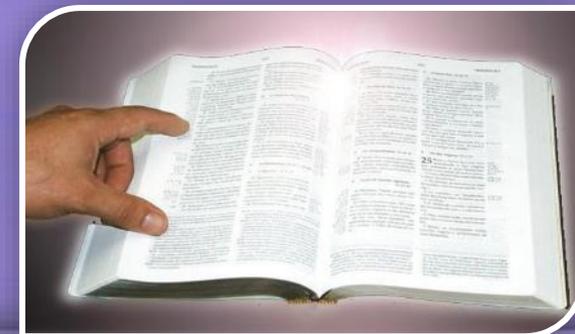
When tempted with *presumptuousness*: "You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Dt. 6:16)



When tempted with *power*: "You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him" (Dt. 10:20)

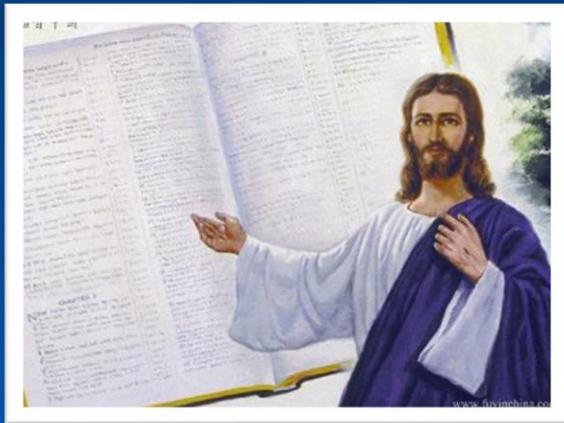
The Bible was the highest authority and the strongest foundation of faith for Jesus.

We must accept the certain guidance of the Word of God before any other opinion.



THE BIBLE AS A GUIDE TO LIFE

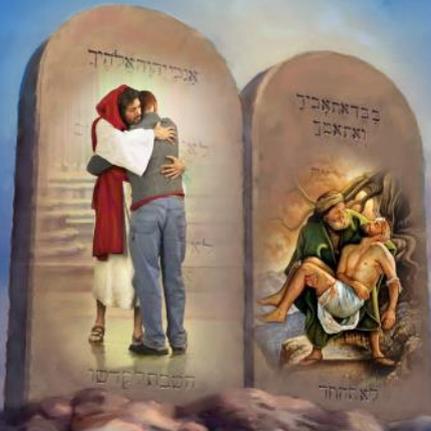
“Don't suppose that I came to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I did not come to do away with them, but to give them their full meaning.” (Matthew 5:17 CEV)



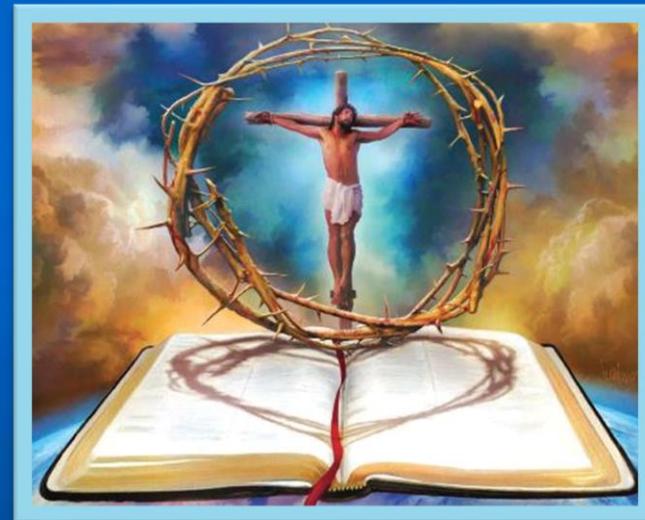
Jesus saw the Scriptures as a guide that can lead us in this life.

He was not giving new instructions when saying “But I say to you” (Mt. 5:22, 28, 32, 39, 44). He was clarifying what Moses and the prophets had written and explaining its actual meaning.

When Jesus was asked which was the most important rule (Matthew 22:36-40), He answered with the Scriptures again: Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.



The New Testament is an extension, explanation and fulfillment of the Old Testament. It interprets the Old Testament in light of the death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus.



THE BIBLE IN ITS ENTIRETY

"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.'" (Luke 24:44)

The Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) has the next structure:



The Law

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy



The Prophets

Joshua

Judges

Samuel

Kings

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

The Twelve



The Writings

Psalms

Proverbs

Job

Song of Solomon

Ruth

Lamentations

Ecclesiastes

Esther

Daniel

Ezra/Nehemiah

Chronicles

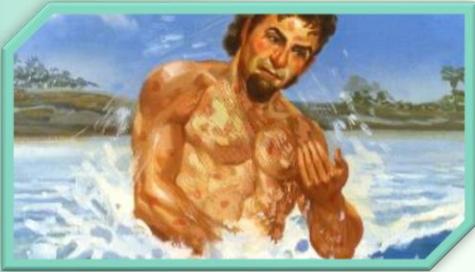
Jesus saw the Scriptures as inspired. He understood that they have authority to teach us God's will.

This is what He taught, and what He commissioned us to teach (Matthew 28:20).



THE BIBLE AS ACTUAL HISTORY

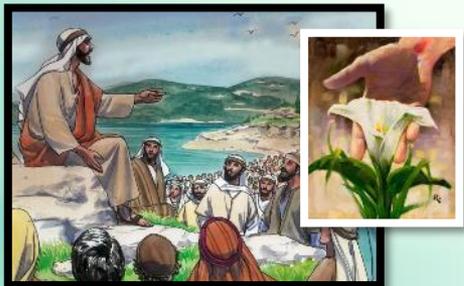
“And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” (Luke 4:27)



Besides considering the Bible the Word of God and the foundation of every doctrine and guide for life, Jesus also considered it a historical book.

He referred to the people in the Bible as actual people who lived in actual places and were part of actual events.

Jesus mentioned: Adam and Eve, Abel, Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's wife, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Zechariah, Isaiah...



Mark 10:6



Matthew 23:35



Luke 17:26



Matthew 11:24



Luke 17:32



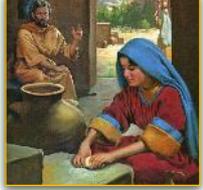
Matthew 12:13



Matthew 12:42



Luke 4:25



Luke 4:27



Matthew 12:40



Matthew 23:35



Mark 7:6



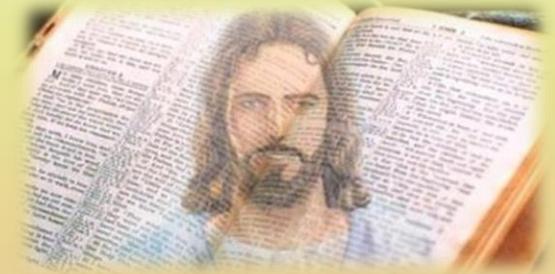
He mentioned their stories as an example to follow or to avoid, as a symbol of what was going to happen, or as a source of doctrine.

THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD



"For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.'" (Romans 9:17)

Paul personified the Bible as if it had spoken God's words to Pharaoh. God is identified with the Scripture here, as in Galatians 3:8. The Scripture IS the Word of God.



Every author of the New Testament used the Old Testament as the Word of God. They accepted the words of the Prophets as such.

They used stories of people like David, Lot and Abraham as useful for teaching (Ro. 11:9; 2P. 2:7; James 2:23).

They followed the example of Jesus, accepting the Bible as He did. We should also accept the **WHOLE** Bible as the foundation of our faith and beliefs.



“The word of God includes the Scriptures of the Old Testament as well as of the New. One is not complete without the other. Christ declared that the truths of the Old Testament are as valuable as those of the New...

Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service, as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets, is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection, Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New Testament. Our Saviour, the outshining of the Father’s glory, is both the Old and the New.”

E.G.W. (Christ’s Object Lessons, cp. 11, p. 126)