

Absolute Truth: Jesus' Bible

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 3, 2011

Luke 24:25-32; 44-49

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. 28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" 33-43 ... 44 [Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

We can trust the Old Testament because...

1. JESUS TRUSTED IT

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- Jesus Himself quoted from 24 OT books
- NT quoted from 34 OT books
- 1st Century Jews (Jesus) divided the OT into 3 parts (**TaNaK**):
 - **The Law (Torah)** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

- **The Prophets (Neviim)** – Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel (one volume), 1 & 2 Kings (one volume), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12 Minor Prophets (one volume)
- **The Writings (Kethubim)** – Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ruth, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah (one volume), 1 & 2 Chronicles (one volume)
- 5 OT books not quoted from in NT: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon (but these books were part of collections of books that were quoted)
- Apocrypha books (400BC – 200BC) were never quoted in NT (and not part of collections that were quoted)

We can trust the Old Testament because...

2. JESUS FULFILLED IT

Luke 24:44

[the resurrected Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

- Jesus fulfilled all 300 First Coming prophecies.
- OT has 500 prophecies concerning His Second Coming.

We can trust the Old Testament because...

3. EARLY CHURCH LEADERS AFFIRMED IT

Acts 17:2-3

2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ..."

Acts 17:11

11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

- Josephus (1st century Jewish Historian) affirmed what is known today as the 39 books of the Christian OT as the authentic Hebrew Bible

We can trust the Old Testament because...

4. DEAD SEA SCROLLS VALIDATED IT

- Discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy
- Found in cave in Qumran (13 miles East of Jerusalem)
- 11 caves contained thousands of fragments from approximately 850 separate scrolls
- Yielded text from every OT book except Esther
- Copy of complete book of Isaiah found almost word for word (1000 years older than oldest copy)
- This archeological find verifies the accuracy of the OT scribes