

# Jesus and the Scriptures

Matthew 4:1-11

## I. Introduction: I

1. **2** The Bible is a book that no one can ignore. You may scorn it, laugh at it or reject it, but you cannot ignore it.
2. The Bible cannot be ignored because it is not just another book. The Bible is a book that claims to be the Word of God, a revelation from the Almighty Creator, the key to the mysteries of the Universe, the Owner's Manual to guide our lives.
3. Those who have rejected the Bible have laughed and scorned it.
  - A. I once read a debate over the question: "Is the Bible the Word of God?"
  - B. The man who said "No, the Bible is not the Word of God," called the Bible primitive, superstitious, cruel, immoral, blasphemous, contradictory and full of lies.
  - C. This man could not simply ignore the Bible, he had to realize its claims to be authored by God and either accept or reject them.
  - D. The view most skeptics take concerning the Bible can be summed up by this quote from Mark Twain: "It is full of interest. It has noble poetry in it; and some clever fables; and some blood-drenched history; and some good morals; and a wealth of obscenity; and upwards of a thousand lies." —*Letters from the Earth*
4. But I'm not interested in the views of skeptics; I want us to consider the opinion of just one person concerning the Bible.
  - A. This person was not a renowned scholar, nor a great historian, nor an author of volumes or of any written text.
  - B. Yet this person is the most well-known and greatest man who ever lived on this earth.
  - C. Both his friends and his enemies recognize the tremendous influence Jesus Christ the Son of God has had upon our world.
  - D. Even those who reject Jesus as the Son of God cannot deny his impact upon millions and that his life, influence, and teachings serve as the foundation of modern culture.
5. **3** So, what did Jesus think about the Bible?
  - A. At the time He walked upon this earth, He had what we call the Old Testament which is over two-thirds of our Bible today.
  - B. What did Jesus say about the Scriptures?
  - C. When we understand His use and opinion of the Scriptures, we can learn to appreciate the Bible all the more.

## II. Discussion:

### I. **4** From God:

- A. The Bible claims to be from God:
  - (1) The Bible claims to be "*inspired by God*," that is God gave his message through human authors (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**: "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"). Bold claim!
  - (2) Men have debated and argued the inspiration of the Bible down through the years.
- B. But what does Jesus say concerning the Bible?

- (1) *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matt. 4:4).
  - (a) Jesus quoted from the Scriptures, Deuteronomy 8:3; so He believed the Scriptures are from God; that every word comes from God.
  - (b) The Scriptures give life because they are from God (**Jn. 6:63**: *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”* **Jn. 6:68**: *“But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*).
- (2) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”* (Matt. 5:17-18).
  - (a) The “yod” is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet; the “tittle” is an accent mark which is very small.
  - (b) Isn’t it ironic so many criticize us for trying to follow the Scriptures down to the smallest detail! They accuse us of being “legalistic,” “Pharisaical,” etc.
  - (c) Such critics don’t make the same accusation against Jesus, but He considered the Scriptures inspired down even to the smallest “jot” and “tittle.”
  - (d) We have to take the various Scriptures into perspective, but we cannot leave out even the smallest of items! (**Matt. 23:23**: *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”*)
- (3) Illustration: **Matthew 22:23-32**
  - (a) Jesus quoted from the Scriptures, Exodus 3:6; the words were from God to Moses at the burning bush years after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had died.
  - (b) Yet, the Scriptures said, *“I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,”* not *“I was their God.”* In other words, Jesus taught that the truth of God’s Word even turned on the tense of a verb.

## 2. **5** All True:

- A. Many people want the Bible to be like their religion “cafeteria style.”
  - (1) At a cafeteria one picks only what they want to eat. Far too many want to pick and choose what they want from the Bible and leave the rest.
  - (2) Example: A preacher was trying to teach a woman about baptism. He told her that the Bible says that one must be baptized to be saved in Mark 16:16. She replied, “Not in my Bible!” “Sure it is. Here let me look at your Bible and show you.” Sure enough, it wasn’t there; she had cut out every passage in her Bible that had any mention of baptism! Remember Jehoiakim’s penknife (Jer. 36:23).
- B. Many people claim to accept Jesus, but reject the Bible.
  - (1) Such people (even some “Christians”) claim that the Old Testament is filled with myths and legends, such as the Creation account.
  - (2) What did Jesus say about the Genesis account of Creation? **Matt. 19:4-5**: *“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’”*
    - (a) Jesus quoted from the second chapter of Genesis, approves it and accepts it as a literal account.

- (b) In fact, Jesus asked, *“Have you not read?”* In other words, he assumed his listeners read and believe the same as He did about this account.
  - (c) Jesus also referred to the account of Abel. *“[T]hat on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar”* (Matt. 23:25).
  - (d) Jesus believed and taught the Genesis account of Creation (presents a major problem for those believing in theistic evolution; days of creation, etc.).
- (3) What about the Bible’s account of the Flood in the days of Noah?
- (a) I have talked with those who insist the Flood account is a myth, but they also profess to be Christians.
  - (b) Jesus believed and taught about Noah and the Flood just as the Scriptures recorded the event (**Matt. 24:36-39**: *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”*).
- (4) What about Moses?
- (a) Many modern day liberal critics claim Moses did not really write the first five books of the Old Testament. They say these books were the fictitious works of several priestly writers who wrote many centuries after the events they claim to describe.
  - (b) But what did the Master Teacher say? *“Did not Moses give you the law?”* (Jn. 7:19).
  - (c) And again, *“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me”* (Jn. 5:46).
- (5) What about Jonah?
- (a) *“You don’t really believe that Jonah story about a man being swallowed by a fish, do you?”*
  - (b) If Jesus believed the Bible, what do you suppose he said about Jonah? **Matt. 12:38-41**
    - (i) Jesus called Jonah a *“prophet.”*
    - (ii) Jesus used the event as a sign of the resurrection. If Jonah was not in the great fish, then Jesus did not really die and was not resurrected.
    - (iii) Jesus also said the men of Nineveh would stand at the Judgment Day. If Jonah’s story is merely a *“fish story”*; what about the Judgment Day?
- (6) What about Daniel?
- (a) Did you know the book of Daniel is one of the most debated and attacked books in the Bible? **Matt. 24:15**: *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”* (whoever reads, let him understand),”
  - (b) Jesus called Daniel a *“prophet.”*
  - (c) Jesus quoted from what Daniel had written (critics of the Bible claim Daniel written as late as the second century B. C.).
- (7) What about the rest of the Old Testament?
- (a) Jesus in his teaching constantly referred to the writings in the Old Testament.
  - (b) He referred to almost every period of history recorded in the Old Testament: the creation of man, the institution of marriage, the death of Abel, the days of Noah and the flood, the destruction of Sodom, the history of Abraham, God at the burning bush, the manna in the wilderness, the miracle of the brazen serpent, the wanderings of David, the

glory of Solomon, the ministry of Elijah and Elisha, the trip and preaching of Jonah and the martyrdom of Zechariah.

C. Jesus accepted all of the Bible, not just part of it.

- (1) If one accepts Christ, then they must accept all of the Bible.
- (2) Jesus said the Old Testament Scriptures were all fulfilled in him (**Lk. 24:25-27**: “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.”; **Lk. 24:44-46**: “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. 46 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,”).

### 3. **6** Sole Authority:

A. The Bible cannot simply be a good story book or history book from man.

- (1) The Bible not only claims to be from God, but also it claims to be the sole authority to guide our lives through this world to the next world (**Psa. 119:9-16**).
- (2) Those who mock and laugh at the Bible do so not so much from unbelief as they do so from convenience.
  - (a) Most atheists are atheists of convenience rather than conviction.
  - (b) They simply do not want to obey and follow God’s Word, they do not want to be bound by the authority of God’s Word.

B. What did the Master Teacher teach about the authority of God’s Word?

- (1) In questions and disputes?
  - (a) Time and again through the Lord’s life, people came to him with vexing questions or trying to entrap him.
  - (b) The Lord invariably referred to the Scriptures as the final authority, the infallible standard against which there is no appeal.
  - (c) When people came to him with questions his first response would be to answer with “What is your reading of it?” or “Have you not read?”
- (2) The question of the Sabbath (**Matt. 12:1-7**). Twice Jesus asked about what the Scriptures said.
  - (a) “Have you not read about David?” (v. 4).
  - (b) “Have you not read in the Law?” (vs. 5).
- (3) The question of divorce (**Matt. 19:1-5**).
  - (a) Jesus asked, “Have you not read...” (v. 4).
  - (b) Jesus quoted from two texts to answer the question, Genesis 1:27 and 2:4.
  - (c) We can and should settle the question of divorce today in the same way (vs. 5).
- (4) The question of Eternal Life (**Lk. 10:25-28**).
  - (a) Jesus began by asking, “What is written in the Law?” (vs. 26).
  - (b) He didn’t want to know what the opinions of men were concerning the matter, He wanted to know what God’s Word said.
  - (c) “Have you not read in the Law?” (vs. 5).

(5) The question of the Resurrection (**Matt. 22:23-33**).

(a) Jesus told those who asked, “*You err, not knowing the scriptures of the power of God*” (v. 29).

(b) “*But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying...*” (v. 31).

(c) Jesus emphasized that when they read the scriptures that was God speaking to them.

C. Jesus taught the eternal and abiding nature of the authority of God’s Word.

(1) Scripture cannot be broken (**Jn. 10:30-35**).

(2) The Word of God is sure; it is from Him and it is His authority.

(3) “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*” (Matt. 24:35).

#### 4. **7** Relied Upon:

A. Jesus not only believed, taught and followed God’s Word, he depended on it to make it through this life!

(1) During His Temptations:

(a) **Heb. 4:15:** “*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*”

(b) Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus faced all the temptations Satan could muster, armed solely with the Word of God. For each temptation thrust at Him, Jesus parried with a counter-thrust with the sword of the Spirit, the Scriptures. Three times Satan tried to tempt Him, each time the Lord replied, “*It is written...*”

✓ “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (v. 4).

✓ “*You shall not tempt the Lord your God*” (vs. 7).

✓ “*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve*” (vs. 10).

(2) During His Sufferings:

(a) **Heb. 5:7-8:** “*who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, & though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*”

(b) As Jesus hung on the cross, he depended on the Word to get him through.

✓ “*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me’*” (Matt. 27:46 quoting Psa. 22:1).

✓ “*And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit’*” (Lk. 23:46 quoting Psa. 31:5).

#### 5. **8** Will Judge:

A. Of all the things Jesus taught concerning the Word of God, we should remember the Word will be the standard used in judgment (**Jn. 12:44-50**).

(1) Many will stand in judgment before the Lord and say, “How did we know what to do?” Ignorance of the law has never been an excuse for disobeying or ignoring the law.

(2) And he will simply point to the Bible and say, “You had this, my Word! And yet you failed to heed and follow the Word.” (**Jn. 6:63:** “*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The*

*words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” Jn. 6:68: “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”)*

### III. **Conclusion:** 9

1. Jesus thought and taught that the Scriptures are from God, all true, our sole authority, to be relied upon and will judge us.
2. \*\* If you believe in Jesus you must believe in the Scriptures!

Adapted from a sermon (“What Jesus Thought of the Scriptures”) by Wayne Greeson in *Sowing the Seed* 3, pp. 1-6.