

The Bible According to Jesus

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Jesus & the Old Testament Scriptures – He affirmed or taught the following:

- the divine authority of OT teachings: Mt 4:1ff; Mt 5:21, 27; 15:4
- the historicity of OT narrative/stories: Creation (Mk 10:6), the Flood (Mt 24:37), Jonah/fish (Mt 12:39)
- the historicity of OT people: Abraham (Jn 8:56), Moses (Mk 12:26), Queen of the South (Mt 12:42)
- the historicity of OT miracles: Luke 4:24ff with Elijah and Elisha
- the judgments of God in OT history: Luke 17:26ff (Noah's Flood, Sodom)
- the truthfulness of OT prophecy: Mal 3:1 (Mt 11:10); Isa 61:1ff (Lk 4:17ff)
- the totality of the OT Scriptures: Mt 23:24ff (from Abel to Zechariah)
- the call to obey the OT Scriptures: Mt 5:17; 23:29 (His fulfillment of the law; His obedience unto death)
- that His Apostles would carry on His ministry thru the Holy Spirit: the Spirit would empower and remind them of all that Jesus taught and guide them into all truth. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the apostles, we have the NT Scriptures (Lk 24:49; Jn 14:26; 16:13). This is explained in more detail below.
- that His teachings are the rock to build our lives upon & that the gospel would be preached to all nations (Mt 7:24ff & Mk 13:10): which implies that the gospel He preached would be written down as Scripture, just as other key events of salvation history and prophetic words from the OT became part of Scripture.

Jesus, the Apostles, and the New Testament Scriptures

Authors of the NT: of the 27 books in the NT, 26 of them were written by an apostle or by someone who was endorsed by or associated with an apostle (Hebrews is the one exception; the author is unknown).

- Matthew, *John, & Peter were apostles, and Mark was influenced by Peter (*or this "John" was not the Apostle John but another disciple who traveled with them; see *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* by Bauckham).
- Jude and James were Jesus' brothers who were counted among the believers after His resurrection (Ac 1:14; 1Co 15:7), and James was considered an apostle and became the leader of the Jerusalem church (Ac 17:18; Gal 1:19; 2:9).
- Paul was called to be an apostle through a divine encounter with Jesus, which was affirmed by the other apostles, and through the life he lived & the message he preached (Ac 9; 15; 2Pe 3:15f).
- Luke had been Paul's traveling companion and had thoroughly investigated the life of Jesus and experienced firsthand many of the events he wrote about in Acts. Also his massive references to Roman & Jewish historical events and dates give further weight to the validity of the NT as a whole.
- That leaves only Hebrews and there's debate as to its author. Regardless, that letter is loaded with OT scriptures, it falls in line with the rest of the doctrine and storyline of the Old and New Testament, and its Scriptural authority was acknowledged by the early church fathers.

Christ's Teachings related to the NT Scriptures:

Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would remind the apostles of all He taught them, and that the Spirit would guide them into all truth, all of which gives reliability to the NT Scriptures as God's word.

- **John 14:**²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." (ESV)
 - **John 16:**¹³ "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (ESV)
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