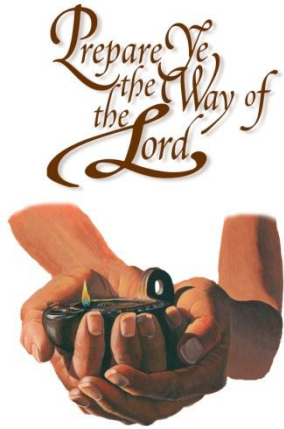


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8



JESUS AND THE BIBLE

Scripture Texts: Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 24:44; Matthew 5:17-18; John 6:63

The Gospels are biographies of Jesus. **Acts** is an account of the Spirit-led witness to Him by His church. The Epistles are records and explanations of His teachings. The **Revelation** is His showing forth of His plan for man from the beginning of the Gospel dispensation to eternity. Every Book of the Bible speaks of Jesus by promise or type or symbol or statement of fact.

Jesus is the central figure of the whole Bible. The Old Testament looks forward to Him; the New Testament looks back to Him. Both exalt Him. It is accurate to say Jesus "believed" the Bible. It originated with Him. Jesus recommends the Bible to be trustworthy when He quotes it, fulfills its prophecies, and tells us to search the Scriptures.

MEMORY VERSE: *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. —John 5:39*

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**John 5:36-47** Moses wrote of Christ.

Tue.—**John 6:51-63** We must eat the Words of Christ.

Wed.—**1 Timothy 6:3-14** God's Word is the foundation.

Thu.—**Revelation 19:11-16** Jesus is the living Word of God.

Fri.—**Psalms 119:81-96** Choosing God's Word in trouble.

Devotional Reading: Luke 24:13-32 All the Scriptures tell of Christ.

Jesus Is the Living Bible

Hebrews 1:1-2 In time past—in the former dispensation— God spoke **unto the fathers by the prophets**. In **2 Kings 17:13**, we read that **the Lord testified against Israel**, or gave them no excuse, **by all the prophets . . . saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments . . . according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets**. The Prophets gave warnings, promises, teachings, commands, guidance, and foretelling of events. But now **in these last days**— the last dispensation of time—God has **spoken unto us by his Son**—Jesus Christ.

The Bible opens with the account of Creation, and the Hebrew word for God in **Genesis 1:1** is plural (Gods). Jesus, together with His Father and the Spirit, created all things (**Colossians 1:16**). **By whom also he made the worlds (Hebrews 1:2)**. He is the One promised to **bruise the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15)** and to bless the world through Abraham (**Genesis 12:3**). He is the Prophet promised to Moses (**Deuteronomy 18:15**). He is pictured as the Passover Lamb (**Exodus 12**). He is typified in Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and others. The Psalms have many prophetic references to Jesus. For example, **Psalms 96**. The Books of Prophecy promise His coming—**Behold, the Lord God will come . . . He shall feed his flock like a shepherd (Isaiah 40:10-11)**.

God has always communicated with man. Prophets brought His message. Some obeyed, but more did not. Then God began His better plan, a new dispensation. He sent His best message, His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is called the Word in **John 1:1** and **John 1:14**— **the Word was God . . . the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**—and in **1 John 1:1-2**, **That which was from the beginning, which we have heard . . . seen . . . looked upon . . . handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested . . .)**—and in **Revelation 19:13**— **And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God**. God gave us His written Law that is powerful, and then His living Word Who is more powerful. The written Word shows us His will. The living Word gives us power to obey it. By His written Word, He comes to us. By His living Word,

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8

He comes inside of us. The written Word and the living Word always agree. They are joined in one. The written Word, the Bible, proceeds from the living Word, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Said That the Bible Tells of Him

Luke 24:44 After His Resurrection, Jesus explained His death to His troubled disciples. **All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** Law, Prophets, Psalms—the three parts into which the Jews divided the Old Testament. Therefore, the Old Testament tells of Jesus. And Jesus presented it as true. We need no further proof. The night before His death, He said, **The Son of man goeth as it is written of him (Matthew 26:24).** He planned it, wrote it in the Bible, and then carried it out. He established it as truth (**Psalm 119:89**). Our Memory Verse quotes Him: **Search the scriptures . . . they are they which testify of me.**

Jesus Fulfilled the Law

Matthew 5:17-18 God gave His righteousness to Israel in the form of the Law. When the Law had served its purpose of showing man his inability to keep it without help, God sent Jesus, His greater Righteousness. Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, not destroy them. What they promised, He brought. He was the spiritual fulfillment of the visible, material symbols of the tabernacle worship. For instance, in the place of **the blood of goats and calves**, which symbolized cleansing from sin, Jesus shed His own blood, which actually cleansed from sin. In place of the ark of the covenant, which symbolized the presence of God, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. So with all Old Testament types. **One jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass . . . till all be fulfilled.** The Law, the Old Testament, was not to end and pass out of existence, but to blossom into the New Testament of salvation. Christ Himself made the change from the dispensation of Law to the dispensation of grace that is now in force. So, we see Christ and the Bible are forever joined. Read **Psalm 85:7-13.**

Jesus' Words Are Spirit and Life

John 6:63 **The words that I speak**—found in the Bible— **they are spirit, and they are life.** It is not enough that we know the Bible as literature and history only. Unless we find there the Spirit of God and open our hearts to the Life which is Christ, we have missed it all. Reading the Bible leads us to the living Word, Jesus Christ. But we must believe and obey to have His Spirit and life enter into us and His **words abide in us (John 15:7).** This is the way we eat His flesh and drink His blood, by which we have eternal life (**John 6:54**).

JUST A THOUGHT

"He who takes the devil's bait will feel his hook."

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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