



A Spiritual Encouragement Message
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Search the Scriptures Looking for Jesus

by Oscar Velazquez

Most people who are trying to learn about Jesus usually start reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, then they follow with the rest of the New Testament and that has been the pattern of the great majority for almost two thousand years. But during Jesus' actual ministry, He personally referred to the Old Covenant Scriptures when He was telling the Jews to inform themselves about Him. "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39 ESV).

Those were the only Scriptures they had during His time. In fact, those were the only Scriptures the apostles and disciples of Jesus had for at least the first twenty to thirty years after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. "And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:15-17 ESV).

It wasn't after two to three decades of the Lord's resurrection that the disciples started writing their testimonies, accounts and things they witnessed before they themselves laid to rest, to leave Scriptures as it was their tradition to pass the teachings through generations, but also as the Spirit led them to all the truth. This later became the New Testament we have today.

Jesus, Himself, on the very same day after His resurrection appeared to two of His disciples and took them back in time to remember Moses and all the prophets in the Old Covenant Scriptures, rebuking them for being slow to believe those Scriptures. Luke 24:17-27. That same day, He appeared to most of His disciples telling them that the things that happened to Him were the fulfillment of the writings of Moses, the prophets and the psalms. Luke 24:44-48.

There are literally hundreds of Scriptures in the old Covenant that were written with the purpose to reveal the Messiah and Savior, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Besides all the prophecies there is also lots of typology, characters, names and places that point straight to Jesus, being shadows of the Lord to come. Typology example: Eve coming out of Adam's side when he was put to sleep and the church coming out of Jesus' the second Adam's side when he was put to sleep. Or a name like Joshua son of Nun which means Jehovah saves son of the eternal, to name a couple. The Jews failed to recognize the Lord because they failed to read the Scriptures entrusted to them. We Christians can fall into the same fatal mistake if we only read the New Covenant and pretend to know Jesus better than the Jews. It is an enormous privilege to be able to search all the Scriptures looking for Jesus.