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# **The Apostles and Paul use the Old Testament to Prove Jesus is the Christ**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# The Apostles and Paul use the Old Testament

## To prove Jesus is the Christ.

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### Topics.

- The central focus of the Bible, the apostles and Paul's teaching.
- The central focus and reason for the Scriptures.
- Examples that show how Paul masterfully uses the Old Testament Scriptures.

**INTRODUCTION:** the Jews did not need to be taught the Old Testament Scriptures since they had studied them for around four-thousand years and read them every day in their Synagogues, but sadly they did not believe Jesus was the promised seed of Abraham and David, their Messiah the anointed one the Christ and the prophet that the Old Testament prophets said was to come and the Scriptures speak of. It is interesting to notice that though Jesus the apostles and Paul often refer to Abraham, Moses, the Law, the Prophets and the Old Testament Scriptures their central focus is not upon teaching them, but skillfully and brilliantly using them to prove to unbelieving and doubting Jews that Jesus is the Christ. The following study highlights the central focus and reason for the Scriptures and gives some examples that show how the apostles and Paul masterfully uses the Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the Christ that the Scriptures speak of.

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### JOHN 20:30-31

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John who not only knew Jesus from childhood, but also had the enormous honour of water baptising him and introducing him as the Son of God and Saviour to the world in the following two verses sums up the entire purpose of Jesus miracles and the Scriptures.

- **John 20:30-31:** <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John in these verses not only sums up the central purpose of the Bible, but also shows that the Scriptures are designed:

- To highlight Jesus, his person and significance and to show that he is the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
- To lead the reader to repentance before God and a commitment to Christ; a commitment that opens the door to a new dimension of living a life shared with God.
- To prove Jesus is the person he and the apostles claim him to be.
- To give the reader information about Jesus to prove is he is the Saviour and Son of God.

The miracles and the death and resurrection combine with the Lords holy life, his love, compassion, grace, mercy and teaching to challenge the reader to decide for or against Jesus.

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### ACTS 9:20-22

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## Paul confounds Jews by Proving Jesus is the Christ.

After Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus he was blinded by the light and glory of the vision. Ananias came to him and laid hands on him and his sight was restored and he was filled with the Holy Spirit and water baptised. He spent a few days with the disciples at Damascus (Acts 9:3-19) and then went and:

- **Acts 9:20-22:** And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."<sup>21</sup> And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"<sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Paul's greatest desire and central focus was to proclaim Jesus and prove that he is the Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world. As we read Paul's letters it becomes very clear that when he was testifying of the Gospel to the Jews he brilliantly and skillfully used Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus was who he claimed to be.

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### ACTS 10:43

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#### Peter uses Old Testament Scriptures to Prove Jesus.

Peter when testifying of Jesus in the house of Cornelius after telling those in his home that God shows no partiality, but in every nation (i.e. not just Israel) anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him, because the word that he sent to Israel, preaching the Good News of the Gospel and of peace through Jesus Christ and that he is Lord of all (Acts 10:30-36) went on to say:

- **Acts 10:43:** To him (Jesus) all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Peter in this verse shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the Old Testament prophets testify to the reality Jesus is the one the Old Testament prophets and Scriptures speak of.

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### ACTS 13:27-34

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#### We Bring You the Good News that God Promised the Fathers.

On the Sabbath day Paul and his companions went into the synagogue and after the reading from the Law and the Prophets (Acts 13:14-16) had been read Paul stood up, and said:

- **Acts 13:27-34:** For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him (Jesus) nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.<sup>28</sup> And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.<sup>29</sup> And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.<sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead,<sup>31</sup> and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.<sup>32</sup> And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,<sup>33</sup> this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you."<sup>34</sup> And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David."

This exhortation of Paul clearly shows that the Jews did not perceive the utterances of the Old Testament prophets, which were read every Sabbath and therefore did not recognize Jesus. In this chapter Paul talks of the Exodus and tells the Jews that God gave Israel their land then Paul gives

a panoramic view of the Old Testament history of Israel, he speaks of their fathers, the prophets, the wilderness journeys and King David, but Paul is not teaching the Old Testament, but using it to convince doubting Jews that Jesus is the offspring of David and to prove to unbelieving Jews that Jesus is the one the Old Testament and the prophets speak of (Acts 13:23-24). He tells the rulers of Jerusalem and the people in the city that:

- The Old Testament prophets wrote of the death and resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 13:29-30).
- The apostles are witnesses proclaiming the Good News that God promised to the fathers of the Jewish nation (Acts 13:1-32).
- God has fulfilled what the Old Testament prophets had spoken by raising up Jesus from the dead (Acts 13:33).
- Through Jesus forgiveness of sins is proclaimed and everyone who believes in him is freed from the Law of Moses (Acts 13:38).
- The Prophets of the Old Testament in prophecy spoke of Jews rejecting Israel's Messiah so Paul in this chapter warns the Jews he is speaking to, to be careful they don't fulfil what the prophets of old spoke (Acts 13:40-41).

After Paul had spoken all these things the Jews were filled with jealousy and began to contradict Paul and thereby not only made themselves unworthy of eternal life, but fulfilled what was spoken by the Old Testament prophets (Acts 13:45-46). The Jews did not need to be taught the Old Testament Scriptures, they knew them but did not believe Christ was the promised seed, Saviour and anointed One, the Christ, the Messiah and the Prophet to come that the Old Testament prophets spoke of.

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### ACTS 17:1-3

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#### **Paul teaches in a Synagogue of the Jews.**

- **Acts 17:1-3:** Now when they (Paul and Silas) had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures (OT), <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

Paul and Silas enter a Jewish synagogue and Paul uses Old Testament Scripture (kept on scrolls) to prove to these Jews that that Jesus is the Christ and that he had to die and rise again.

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### ACTS 17:24-28

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#### **Paul speaks to the men of Athens.**

- **Acts 17:24-28:** The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for ““In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, ““For we are indeed his offspring.”

Paul in this chapter uses the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is the way to God and even uses the poets of Athens to prove his point, then completes his message by telling the men of Athens that God commands all people (Jews and Gentiles) to repent, because He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the Lord Jesus Christ who He has raised from the dead (Acts 17:30-31).

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## ACTS 18:5

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### **Paul Testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.**

**Acts 18:5:** When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

Paul moved by the Spirit uses the word of God (i.e., the Old Testament scrolls) to prove to unbelieving Jews that Jesus is the Christ the Scriptures and prophets speak of. Paul was continually using Old Testament Scriptures that spoke of Christ and being saved by faith to prove to unbelieving and doubting Jews that Jesus was who he claimed to be. These Jews opposed and reviled him so he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6).

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## ACTS 18:28

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### **Apollos uses the Old Testament to prove to the Jews Jesus is, the Christ.**

- **Acts 18:28:** for he (Apollos) powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures (OT) that the Christ was Jesus.

Jesus the apostles and Paul used the Old Testament Scriptures, Israel's history and prophecy to prove to the unbelieving and doubting Jews that Jesus was the fulfilment of it (also see Acts 13:13-52). It is interesting to notice when Jesus conversation includes Gentiles in almost all instances, he uses parables and stories the Gentiles can relate to rather than Old Testament Scriptures, Israel's history or prophecies which they had no knowledge of.

But when he or the apostles are talking to the unbelieving and doubting Jews, they use the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the better covenant, the fulfilment of Old Testament Scripture and the one the prophets said was to come.

### **The apostles teach from the Old Testament to prove:**

- Jesus is the light of the world and the way to salvation.
- Eternal life is through faith in Jesus.
- Forgiveness of sins is through faith in Jesus.
- The church is the body of Christ.
- How those in the body of Christ should behave.

**NOTE:** the central focus of almost every chapter of the New Testament is about some aspect of the Lord Jesus Christ or some aspect of behaviour (Christian or secular).

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## ACTS 28:23

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### **Paul uses Moses, the Law and Prophets to Convince Jews about Jesus.**

- **Acts 28:23:** When they had appointed a day for him (Paul), they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

This verse clearly shows that Paul used the Old Testament Scriptures, Moses and the prophets to teach the Kingdom of God and prove Jesus is who he claimed to be. The Kingdom of God refers to the following two Kingdoms:

1. The present global and spiritual Kingdom being established by faith in the heart and mind of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The future literal Kingdom to come when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace during his glorious millennial reign on earth.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles:**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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### **GALATIANS CHAPTER THREE**

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**Paul uses the Old Testament to Prove Jesus is the Seed of Abraham.**

In Galatians chapter three Paul with masterful skill uses the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is the seed of Abraham. When Paul returned to the Galatian church, he is shocked to find that brothers and sisters in Christ were being drawn away from salvation by faith and grace and being enticed back under Moses law and religious customs to earn righteousness to be saved. In this chapter Paul is attempting to convince the Galatians that the promise made to Abraham is received by faith and not by self-effort or by adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions etc. Paul shines a spotlight on the truth that God promised Abraham an eternal King and an eternal Kingdom he tells the Galatians that the law was introduced to protect and keep Israel as a people and a nation for God until the promised seed of Abraham came. Paul uses Old Testament Scriptures to show the Galatians that Jesus Christ is the promised seed of Abraham. Paul in this chapter tells the Galatians that all who believe in Jesus are Abraham's offspring and heirs with Abraham according to the promise and not according to

the law, works or self-effort and beautifully shines a floodlight on the truth that God promised Abraham that he would be counted righteous because of his faith. The expression, "According to the Promise" (Gal. 3:29) means all (Jews and Gentiles) who believe in Jesus Christ will be counted righteous by their faith. Paul is trying to convince the Galatian brothers and sisters that it is by faith that they receive the promise made to Abram and not by self-effort or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions etc.

**NOTE:** Judaism teaches that for a Jew to be counted righteous and accepted by God they must adhere to the Law of Moses and keep their Jewish ceremonial rites and religious customs and traditions. In contrast to this Paul said that he would not place himself under the law or religious works for justification to be saved to eternal life.

It should be pointed out when Paul stated this, he was not saying that those in Christ should not endeavor to keep the law since it is holy, just and good. Under the New Covenant of faith and grace it is the motivation for keeping the law that has changed. In Christianity the faithful in Christ are not motivated to keep the law because of its legal demands, or to get saved or become more saved, but because they are already saved and know God's love dwelling in the heart and from this love have a deep heartfelt desire to live a lifestyle that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ. The following verses show that no one can be saved to eternal life by self-effort, or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions etc.

- No one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11).
- In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith (Gal. 3:26).
- By works of the law no one will be justified (Gal. 2:16).

The faithful in Christ endeavour to keep the law for the following reasons.

- To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and be fully pleasing to him.
- To bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God.
- It is the right and loving thing to do.
- It will protect other humans from financial, physical, emotional, verbal and spiritual harm.

It fulfils the royal law (James 2:8) and Jesus commandment to love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:37-39) (Mark 12:28-31).

- It brings a good testimony to the name of God, Jesus and the Christian faith.
- It pleases God (Col. 1:10).

**Following are two common ways in which some men and woman worldwide who belong to certain religions tend to judge whether God loves them:**

1. Some feel if they strictly adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days and keep certain religious customs and traditions etc., God loves them and if they forsake these things God withdraws his love.
2. Others feel if their life is calm and running smoothly God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love.

But to measure Gods love toward us in this way is foolishness and superstition since it is judging God according to our self-effort in attaining to certain religious works or judging God's love according to the circumstances of this fallen and corrupted world. When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the

bloodstained cross and see what it cost the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered so that we could, by faith have put upon us a royal crown and majestic robe of righteousness apart from self-effort and religious works and not only be justified but granted eternal life in everlasting glory. The, following words of Paul, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8) shine a brilliant spotlight on God's love and God's grace in Christ and the love Jesus has for those who love him.

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### TIMOTHY 3:15

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- **2 Timothy 3:15:** and how from childhood you (Timothy) have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The sacred writings refer to the Old Testament scrolls which the Jews meticulously and fastidiously kept, studied and read every Sabbath Day. Paul tells Timothy that the Old Testament Scriptures contain the knowledge to make those who read them with a right heart attitude able to find God and be saved to eternal life through Israel's Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. This verse shows that the faithful of the Old Testament who read the Scriptures with a heart seeking after God would not only find God, but also find the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved to eternal life.

This is because Jesus is the:

- The promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15).
- The prophet and deliver Moses said was to come like him.
- The promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David.
- The one the prophets said was to come.
- The one spoken of throughout all the Old Testament Scriptures.

The faithful of the Old Testament were saved in the same way as we are, by faith, they believed in the Messiah the Christ the Old Testament Scriptures proclaim was to come. The faithful believed in the same way that the author of Hebrews in the following verses tells us Abraham believed:

- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (Heb. 11:8-10).

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### HEBREWS 6:14-15

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- **Hebrews 6:14-15:** saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Abraham is used as proof that God keeps His promise because Abraham obtained God's promise that he would have a son from his own loins. Abraham was ninety-nine and Sarah his wife was not only barren, but also eighty-nine when God made this promise to him and in the following year Isaac was born as God promised. The entire book of Hebrews is about Christ almost every chapter uses the Old Testament Scriptures to prove to unbelieving and doubting Hebrews that Jesus is the Christ. The author is not teaching the Old Testament, but skilfully and brilliantly using it to prove Jesus is the better High Priest, the better covenant and the better

hope. To enjoy the majestic glory and stunning beauty of Hebrews see: "Hebrews" in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU), I have no-doubt whoever takes the time to read this amazing book will be spiritually rewarded.

**NOTE:** it should be pointed out that once a person is saved in Christ more knowledge won't make them more saved, but it will encourage and strengthen those who are already saved so they don't fall away from the faith.

Matthew wrote:

- When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and *does not understand it* the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in their heart (Matt. 13:19), but the one who *hears the word and understands it* bears fruit (Matt. 13:23).

These words of Matthew shine a spotlight on the truth that a Christian who clearly understands the Bible is less likely to fall away than a brother or sister who lacks understanding, but having great knowledge does not mean that a Christian is more saved or that they have a greater love for the Lord. Every brother and sister in Christ while on this side of eternity are going to suffer certain trails, temptations and various hardships until the Lord returns this is why we all need Scriptural knowledge, understanding and encouragement. Increasing our knowledge in the Lord will:

- Give us greater understanding of God's eternal plans purposes and promises.
- Encourage us in our walk with the Lord.
- Strengthen our love and our faith in Christ.
- Show us how to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to Christ and the Christian faith.

The entire Bible is written to declare and reveal Christ, Jesus said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (i.e., the Old Testament Scriptures) (Heb. 10:7). For further information see the title:

- Old Testament is used to prove Jesus is the Christ.
- In Gospel (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*