

***Finding  
a  
Foundation***

# The Scriptures

What scriptures says, God says

# Scripture

1. the Final Authority in all matters of faith and practice
2. Clear
3. Complete
4. Necessary

# Scripture – Acts 17

## Thessalonica

- Jealous Jews – started a riot
- Still true today
- Personal prejudice
  - We don't like – music, people, pastor
    - Type of god
    - Need of salvation
    - Too tight
    - Intolerant
- Silence the voice of God

# Scripture – Acts 17

## Berea

- Searched the scriptures to see if these things are true
- Urge you search the scriptures with me

# The Scriptures

- 66 books of the Old and New Testaments
- More accurately the Old and New Covenants
- Written over a period of 1,500 years
  - 20 known authors in OT and 10 unknown or unattributed
  - 8 known authors and 1 unknown
- For many that confines the Bible to an ordinary human book

# The Scriptures

- This morning dealt with the theology of how they are divine and yet human
- Now let us look at what the scriptures say of themselves
- How did the writers view what they were doing

# The Scriptures -- Reliability

- Dead Sea Scrolls have greatly confirmed the antiquity and accuracy of the OT text
- More Mss evidence for the NT than any other ancient document – more than 6,000 – 20,000 references
  - Earliest copies – 1<sup>st</sup> century
  - Earliest quotations -2<sup>nd</sup> century
- 98% of the NT text is certain
- The vast majority of differences are minor
- No truth depends on any part of those portions over which there is doubt



# The Scriptures -- Reliability

My study of the text of the Bible has strengthened

“the proof of the authenticity of the Scriptures, and my conviction that we have in our hands, in substantial integrity, the veritable word of God.”

Frederick Kenyon

# The OT Scripture writers

## God is seen as the author

- 3,808 times – “God said or spoke”
- 700 those references in the first 5 books
  - 9 times in the first chapter
- 359 times – “thus says the Lord”

# The OT Scripture writers

## Psalm 119

- Carefully constructed poem reflecting on the word of God
- Each verse in each section begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 42 times it uses the phrase “word/words of Lord/God”
- Every verse in some words speaks of the word of God

# The OT Scripture writers

## Psalm 119

*1. Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.*

*9. How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*

*33. Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.*

*105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

# The NT Scripture writers

## Considered the OT authoritative scripture

- 295 times there direct quotations from the OT
  - 1 verse in 20
- 1,649 allusions to the OT
- 56 references that say God is the author of the OT

# The NT Scripture writers

## Considered the OT authoritative scripture

- Not just some special parts but all parts are quoted
- In Galatians 3:16 one word is the basis of the argument

# The NT Scripture writers

**See the events as a culmination of a process going on for millennia**

- No fresh start but a finishing of something begun long ago
- Not just some special parts but all parts are quoted
  - 51 times in Matthew – “All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet”

# The NT Scripture writers

## Preaching of the early church – Acts

- this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel – 2:16
- this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel – 3:18
- All the prophets testify about him – 10:43
- We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers...he has fulfilled for us...As it is written in the second Psalm – 13:32



# The NT Scripture writers

## New order yes

- but tied to the same truth as Israel
  - National Israel – international society
  - Circumcision/Passover – baptism/Lord's table
  - 7<sup>th</sup> day – 1<sup>st</sup> day
  - Priests, temple, sacrifice – Messiah fulfilled
  - NT people – called Abraham's seed and Israel of God

# The NT Scripture writers

## New order yes

- Truth to be obeyed – truth to be held
- God of Israel – God of Christians
- Israel's Messiah – Jesus of Nazareth
- Christianity – Israel's religion brought to its perfect final form

# Jesus and the OT

# Jesus and the OT-- his claims

# Jesus and the OT-- his claims

- **One who claimed divine authority**

- My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me -  
- Jo 7:16
- For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it – Jo 12:49

- **One having authority**

- amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. Matt 7:28
- The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority – Mark 1:22

# Jesus and the OT-- his claims

- **His teaching would never pass away**

- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. – Mark 13:31

- **Eternal life depended on his word**

- There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day -- Jo 12:48

# Jesus and the OT – his attitude

**NEVER** did Jesus qualify the authority of the OT nor the Jewish belief in it

- Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. – Matt 5:17

# Jesus and the OT – his attitude

**NEVER** did Jesus qualify the authority of the OT nor the Jewish belief in it

- It is written is the final court of appeal
  - Temptation -- Matthew 4
- Upbraided the Jewish leaders for not knowing the Law
  - “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? – Mark 12:24



# Jesus and the OT – his attitude

**NEVER** did Jesus qualify the authority of the OT nor the Jewish belief in it

- Corrected the understanding of it
  - “You have heard that it was said,... But I tell you that...” – Matt 5:21 et al
  - But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” – Matt 9:13

# Jesus and the OT – his understanding

## How Jesus understood himself and his mission

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These are the Scriptures that testify about me**, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. – Jo 5:39

# Jesus and the OT – his understanding

## How Jesus understood himself and his mission

- **Came to fulfil the Scriptures**

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written... “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” -- Luke 4:21

- **His miracles**

Are you the one who was to come? Go back and report to John what you hear and see ... The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matt 11:2ff

# Jesus and the OT – his understanding

## Above all his death

- It must happen because it is written:

“The Son of Man **must** suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” – Luke 9:22

The Son of Man will go just as **it is written** about him. – Matt 26:24

# Jesus and the OT – his understanding

## **Above all his death**

- It must happen because it is written:

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would **the Scriptures be fulfilled** that say it must happen in this way?” – Matt 26:53

# Jesus and the OT – after the Resurrection

## How he explained it all – Luke 24

How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself – verse 25ff

# Jesus and the OT – after the Resurrection

## How he explained it all – Luke 24

This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things – verse 44ff

# Jesus and the NT

## He prepared for it:

- Disciples were chosen to be with him and become Witnesses to all that happened

He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach – Mark 3:14

you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8



# Jesus and the NT

## He prepared for it:

- Disciples were chosen to be with him and become Witnesses to all that happened

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. John 16:13ff

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

...what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words – 1 Corinthians 2:13

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

- **Their message was of Christ -- the fulfiller of Scripture**

the gospel [God] promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son – Romans 1:2

- **The people of God:**

are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. – Ephesians 2:20

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

- **They are Christ's Representatives**

they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews. For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles – Galatians 2:7

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

- They are Christ's Representatives
  - Ambassadors

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us  
– 2 Corinthians 5:20

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

- OT for Christian teaching

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. – Romans 15:4

# Jesus and the NT

## **The apostles so taught:**

- OT is Speech of God

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose – Romans 9:17

Compare Matthew 19:4

# Jesus and Scripture

- Some who avoid this by denying his authority

Either true or false

- He accommodated himself to the understanding of the people

But who is this Jesus?



# Jesus and Scripture

- He so emptied himself that he was just a man of his time

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

- Only what is in line with his life and teaching

Christ's teaching could not stand on its own and who is he?

# The Message of Scripture

Scripture -- 66 books, 1,500 years and the message is the same – there is one big story

- **God who:**

1. Is Before all things
2. Knows all things
3. Is the creator of all things
4. Is the sustainer of all things
5. Is jealous
6. Is sovereign

# The Message of Scripture

Scripture -- 66 books, 1,500 years and the message is the same – there is a big story

- **God who:**

7. Is holy
8. Needs nothing
9. Is the Judge
10. Is ignored
11. Acts to save

# The Scriptures

The Only Sure Foundation we need