



Living the Christian Life Bible Study

Lesson 4b (NIV)

Understanding the Bible as God's Word (Part 2 of 2)

Student's Name _____ **Unit** _____

Instructor _____

Comments _____

4.0 For Additional Study

1. For an interesting story of one King's reaction to finding a portion of the Bible after it had been lost, read 2 Kings 22-23.
2. For additional responses to the Bible, read Psalm 119. All but two verses of this Psalm mention something about God's word and how we are to respond to it.
3. For an example of the importance of the scriptures over experience, read Luke 16:19-31, especially verse 31.

3.0 Response to the Bible

The Word of God is powerful. In the book of Hebrews it is compared to a sword in its ability to penetrate into the deepest areas of our being, *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* (Hebrews 4:12) When we respond properly to the Bible, its effects upon us are life-changing. Consider these examples.

1. Read Acts 8:27-38 and answer the following questions.

(8:30-33) What was the Ethiopian reading?

(8:35) What did Phillip do?

(8:36-37) What was the response of the Ethiopian?

2. When Jerusalem was being rebuilt, the Bible tells us that Ezra read the law to the people, as recorded in Nehemiah 8:1-12.

(8:3) What was the people's attitude as he read?

(8:6) How did the people respond to the reading?

(8:9) How else did they respond?

(8:12) How else did they respond?

(8:12) Why did they respond with such great joy?

The Bible is not given to us simply to educate us about Jesus and the people of long ago; it is given to us to change our lives. For that to happen, we must respond in obedience to God by changing our thinking and our way of living.

1.0 Jesus' Use of the Old Testament About Himself

At the time that Jesus Christ walked the earth as a man, the Old Testament existed substantially as we know it today, although it differed in the names and order of the books. The books of the Old Testament were divided into three groups: The Law, The Prophets, and The Writings. In His teaching, Jesus made extensive use of the Old Testament. By one scholar's count, one tenth of all the verses spoken by Jesus are either quotations from the Old Testament or very direct allusions to it. By His direct statements and in His constant use of the scriptures, the Lord Jesus Christ affirms their importance and their literal accuracy.

1. Jesus began His ministry by quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 to show who He was. Read Luke 4:16-21 and answer the following question.

Who sent Jesus on His ministry and defined what that ministry was to be?

2. At the very end of His life, Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 from the cross. Read Matthew 27:45-46 and answer the following question.

What words did Jesus quote from Psalm 22:1?

3. On the day of His resurrection, Jesus was walking with two of His followers and talking about the resurrection (Luke 24:13-32), but they did not recognize who He was. Before He revealed Himself to them, He taught them for nearly two hours about His resurrection, using the Old Testament as His source. Only after this discourse did He show them that He had risen from the dead. Read Luke 24:25-27 and 32, and answer the following questions.

Who did Jesus say spoke of His suffering and glory?

How much did He tell the disciples they should believe of the prophets?

1.0 Jesus' Use of the Old Testament About Himself (cont'd)

- 4 Jesus also taught the importance and endurance of the scripture in Matthew 5:17-18.

What did Jesus come to do in respect to the scriptures?

What did he say he would not do to the scriptures?

How long did Jesus say the scriptures would last?

2.0 Jesus' Use of the Old Testament About History

In His selection of Old Testament scriptures, it seems that Jesus often chose to use as examples those incidents that people today frequently question when they try to deny the literal truthfulness of scripture.

- 1. In response to a question about marriage, Jesus used the creation of Adam and Eve to show God's plan for marriage (Genesis 1:26 - 2:25). Read Genesis 2:21-24 and Matthew 19:4-6 and answer the following questions.

Whose idea was it to create both male and female?

Whose idea was it to create marriage?

Do you think that Jesus would use the creation of Adam and Eve to illustrate such an important truth if they were not real people?

2.0 Jesus' Use of the Old Testament About History (cont'd)

- 2. Read Matthew 12:38-41. What Old Testament event does Jesus use to illustrate His own death, burial, and resurrection?

If the story of Jonah being swallowed by a huge fish was not literally true (Jonah 1-2), do you think Jesus would have used it to illustrate the most important event in the history of the world: His own death, burial, and resurrection?

- 3. Read Luke 17:26-30. In this discussion about His second coming, what two Old Testament Characters did Jesus use for illustration?

What Old Testament city did Jesus use for an Illustration?

Do you think Jesus would use these people and events to illustrate His second coming if they were not literally true?
