

It was on a Sunday afternoon in the spring of what was probably A.D. 33 that Cleopas and his friend, two of Jesus' followers, walked dejectedly from Jerusalem to Emmaus - about a seven-mile walk. Jesus, their Master, had disappeared from His tomb that morning, having been crucified on Passover Friday. They were confused and heart-broken. Let us pick up the story, as told by Luke, in Luke, Chapter 24 beginning at verse 13.

[READ LUKE 24:13-32]

Today we begin a new sermon series of our own “Road to Emmaus,” as we will be examining those very Scriptures that Jesus might have used to show Himself to Cleopas and friend from the Jewish Scriptures we know as the Old Testament. We are calling the series “Jesus B.C.” for we will learn that Jesus the Messiah is clearly shown throughout the Old Testament, even if those writing did not know His name as “Jesus.” Each week pastor David and I will show you an Old Testament passage that Jesus might well have referred to on that spring day in A.D. 33.

Today we want to show you how the New Testament clearly refers to the Old Testament as speaking of Jesus. And we will look at five key testimonies. The first is from Jesus Himself as we just read in the Luke passage.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Luke 24:25-27 *And Jesus said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

Jesus made it clear to Cleopas and friend that from the beginning of Genesis, written by Moses, all the way through the prophet Malachi, the ancient Jewish Scriptures spoke of Him. And he chided them (“O foolish of heart ...”) for not understanding and believing this. So, Jesus points to our Old Testament as clearly revealing Himself – and particularly these two aspects: (1) His suffering and (2) His glory to come, and in that order. He implies that they should have been able to understand that Jesus would suffer (crucifixion) and after being glorified (resurrection implied, if not specifically prophesied).

Secondly, let us look at the testimony of Jesus' #1 disciple – the leader of the twelve.

THE TESTIMONY OF PETER

1 Peter 1:10-12 *As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look.*

First, notice that the prophets prophesied of God's grace. Yes, this was grace to come through the Messiah, but it was also the grace that God had already shown to the Israelites through their redemption from Egypt, supernatural guidance through the wilderness, provision of the promised land, atonement for sin through the blood sacrifices, and a kingdom with a king to rule them.

Second, notice that it was the Spirit of Christ within them, who we know as the Holy Spirit, who was revealing this prophetic truth of the Lord Messiah to and through them.

Third, notice how this passage perfectly supports the statement that Jesus made on the Emmaus road – namely that it was the (1) sufferings and (2) glories to follow of the Messiah that were specifically revealed, and again in that order.

Fourth, notice that they were aware that they were speaking not only for their generation, but for generations to come – for OUR benefit. We are the beneficiaries of the Messianic truths of the Old

Testament as well as the Israelites of old. The “Old Testament” then, is not really “old” but still fresh and relevant to us today.

And lastly, notice that these Messianic truths of suffering and glory are so special as to attract the attention and study of angels. If that is true, they certainly should attract our interest.

THREE PATRIARCHS from the pages of the Old Testament that the Jews would particularly revere as the glorious forefathers of Israel would be Abraham, Moses and David. These three seem to tower above the rest in significance and spiritual stature. So, for testimonies three, four and five, let us hear from Abraham, Moses and David – each from the perspective of the New Testament authors.

THE TESTIMONY OF ABRAHAM

John 8:56, 58 *[Jesus:] Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.*

Here we learn that Abraham, by faith, saw Jesus the Messiah coming in the future, though he didn't know His name. And it was that faith in the coming Savior/Messiah that God counted unto Abraham as righteousness. Jesus not only makes the incredible statement that He is divine, having pre-existed Abraham; but He also implies that He was there when Abraham was – relating to Him and interacting with Him as the angel of the Lord. Jesus was alive and well in Abraham's life.

THE TESTIMONY OF MOSES

Hebrews 11:24-26 *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.*

Here the writer of Hebrews tells us, by the Spirit of God who inspired him, that Moses was thinking of the reproach that would be the Messiah's as he was going through his sufferings. Moses was thinking of Jesus! And, he was looking forward to the promised reward that this suffering Messiah would bring in due time, which would also be his reward. Moses was trusting in the sufferings of Jesus for him, before he even knew Jesus' name or the extent of His sufferings and glory to follow. Amazing! We can be sure that Jesus was alive and well in the life of Moses.

THE TESTIMONY OF DAVID

Acts 2:25-28 *[Peter, quoting David in Psalm 16:] For David said of Him [Jesus], “I saw the Lord always in my presence; for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; moreover, my flesh also will live in hope; because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.”*

Without the perspective given by Peter, that David when writing Psalm 16 was referring to Jesus, we could read that psalm and think that David was just extolling the Lord, his God. But Peter, again by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, tells us that David was writing specifically about Jesus the Lord-Messiah. It was Jesus that was always in David's presence. It was Jesus who gave David hope when he was discouraged. It was Jesus who God would not abandon to Hades and who was the Holy One who would not be allowed to undergo decay. Jesus was well and alive in the life of David.

You have heard five testimonies from the New Testament, each affirming that Jesus was alive and active in the pages, stories and events of the Old Testament. As we look at various “Jesus” passages this fall, may our hearts burn as did the hearts of Cleopas and friend, as we discover Jesus, B.C.!