

## **Jesus Christ – The Theme of Scripture**

The Bible contains 66 inspired books written by more than 40 different individuals over a period of 1,600 years. Remarkably, every single book of the Bible is intended to point a reader to Jesus Christ. He really is the great Theme of Scripture.

***Jesus claimed to be the theme of the Bible*** – At least five passages record Christ claiming that the Scriptures were all about Him. He said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matt. 5:17). Luke records that Jesus began at Moses and all the Prophets, expounding to His disciples in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27; cf. 24:44). The Lord told the unbelieving Jews, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). The writer of Hebrews attributes the words of an Old Testament passage to Christ: “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come — In the volume of the Book it is written of Me — To do Your will, O God’” (Heb. 10:7; Ps. 40:6-8). Jesus Christ sincerely believed and taught that He is the Theme of the Bible.

***The Old Testament is intended to point people to Christ*** – Certainly no reading of the Old Testament is complete unless one sees and understands how God was preparing the world for Christ. The books of Law (Genesis-Deuteronomy) provide a foundation for the coming of Christ, for they demonstrate both the holiness of God and His sovereign selection of those who would be the human ancestors of Jesus. The books of history (Joshua-Esther) show how God worked in Israel’s national affairs to prepare a holy people to bring forth His Holy Son. The books of poetry (Job-Song of Solomon) demonstrate how spiritually minded people in ancient times longed for a closer relationship with God. Such a relationship could only be completely fulfilled through the coming of the Messiah (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-12). The books of prophecy (Isaiah-Malachi) exhorted God’s people to faithful obedience in preparation for the coming of the Suffering Servant of God (cf. Isa. 53). When Jesus was born, many of the Jews were diligently reading the inspired words of the prophets, and were thus preparing their hearts to receive Him (Luke 2:29-32). The Old Testament resounds with the theme: “Christ is coming.”

***The New Testament is intended to point people to Christ*** – The four Gospel accounts (Matthew-John) are four inspired records of Christ’s words and deeds while here on this earth. He is pictured as a King in Matthew, a Servant in Mark, an Ideal Man in Luke, and a Divine Being (God) in John. The book of Acts records how the disciples of Jesus, “Went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). The specific intention of such preaching was to make disciples of all the nations, as Jesus Himself had commanded (Matt. 28:18-20). The epistles of the New Testament (Romans-Jude) show a reader of Scripture how to practically live IN Christ, WITH Christ, and FOR Christ (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Rom. 8:29). Every disciple has a dual mandate:

to build up other believers and to reach out to unbelievers for the sake of Jesus Christ. Finally, the book of Revelation glorifies Christ as the Victorious Lamb of God (Rev. 5), and reveals the ultimate destiny of those who are faithful to Him.

May God help His people to see more of Christ not only in the pages of Scripture, but in the choices they make each day. **--JB**