

Scripture – What is scripture in context?

If we are talking about the bible in context, what is scripture? What did the people in the bible understand scripture as? When Jesus speaks of scripture, what is he referring to? When Paul speaks of scripture, what is he referring to?

When you read these type of passages where scripture is being mentioned, are you taking into consideration what scripture meant to them as opposed to how you view it?

During the times of Jesus, Paul and the Apostles, the New Testament did not exist. So when these individuals speak of scripture, they cannot be referring to the New Testament because it did not exist by the time.

They only had the Hebrew Scriptures (Torah, Prophets and Writings) which are now called the Old Testament.

Let us look at some of the verses and what they meant when the definition of scripture is taken into context.

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

- ⇒ Whatever is written in the Hebrew Scriptures, were written to teach us, so that we may walk accordingly and not do as the disobedient Israelites who came out of Egypt did.
- ⇒ The Hebrew Scriptures are to give us hope, meaning when we read them they are supposed to give us hope.
- ⇒ The Hebrew Scripture is what Paul had and is what he referencing here.

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- ⇒ Jesus taught the people about himself using the Hebrew scripture (Moses (Moses is Torah) and Prophets)
- ⇒ Are you able to do that? Teach about Jesus using the Hebrew Scriptures?

2 Peter 1:20–21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- ⇒ Every prophecy given in the Hebrew Scriptures has one meaning, one interpretation.

- ⇒ There is no Kgadi's meaning or someone else's meaning. There's one meaning, you cannot say this is what it means to me. Your current understanding of it might be different but the meaning of the prophecy is still one.

2 Timothy 3:14–17

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- ⇒ When Paul says Timothy knew the holy scripture from his childhood and the scripture he would've known is the Hebrew scriptures.
- ⇒ Paul tells Timothy to continue in the Hebrew scriptures. He also says they are able to make one wise for salvation. Where does Paul get this from? Psalm 19:7, Deuteronomy 4:5-6, Psalm 119:98-100
- ⇒ Psalm 19:7 - "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."
- ⇒ Deuteronomy 4:5-6 := "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me... Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"
- ⇒ Psalm 119: 98-100:= "You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts."
- ⇒ The Scriptures teach us the way of life like Romans 15:4 says. They show us the way we are supposed to walk.

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- ⇒ The Bereans checked to see if what Paul was saying aligned with the scriptures. And during this time, the only scripture they had was the Hebrew scriptures.
- ⇒ What Paul taught had to be in line with the Torah or he was going to be judged as a false teacher and a false prophet by the Word of God.
- ⇒ The bible says the people knew the Truth and we know that the Truth is the Word of God and The Word of God is the Torah. These people knew the Torah.
- ⇒ 1 John 2:21 - I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

- ⇒ If he taught against it then we would know that there's no light in him. Isaiah 8:20
- ⇒ Isaiah 8:20 - To the law and to the testimony!
If they do not speak according to this word,
it is because there is no light in them.
- ⇒ What Paul said had to align with the scriptures, it had to agree with the Torah. The Word of God.
- ⇒ That is what they used to test his teachings and writings, The Hebrew Scriptures.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

- ⇒ Paul says we must test everything if really it is from God.
- ⇒ How then do we test everything? To what standard are we putting it against? The answer is simple; it is the Word of God.
- ⇒ Now the question is, what is the word of God? As established in a different document from this one, the Word of God is the Torah. The Torah is the instructions that were directly given by GOD using his own mouth, his direct words.
- ⇒ If it goes against the Word of God, then it is a lie, since we also already established in a different document that the Word of God is the Truth, the Torah is the Truth.
- ⇒ When Jesus was tempted he quoted the very same Word of God! He quoted scripture.

John 10:35

If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

- ⇒ Jesus said scripture cannot be broken. What is scripture in context?
- ⇒ We know it is the Hebrew Scriptures
- ⇒ He himself affirms The Torah, Prophets and Writings as scripture.

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- ⇒ They believed that the scripture gives eternal life, but they were wrong. The scriptures never gave eternal life. They taught how walk in love with God, they taught about Christ.
- ⇒ That is why he was able to teach his disciples about himself from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Acts 17:2–3

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."

- ⇒ Paul's custom was to teach on the Sabbath as shown above.
- ⇒ He taught from the Hebrew Scriptures on those Sabbath meetings.
- ⇒ He was able to teach about Christ from the Hebrew Scriptures, are you able to do that?

Acts 18:28

For he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

- ⇒ Paul rebuked the Jews using the Hebrew scriptures, nothing else.
- ⇒ He taught about Christ from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Acts 26:22

Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—

- ⇒ Paul here says he never said anything that goes beyond what is taught in Moses(Torah) and the Prophets.
- ⇒ He was only teaching what was in the Hebrew scriptures and nothing more or less from it.

Romans 1:2

Which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

- ⇒ The Holy Scriptures refers to the Hebrew Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 – “Christ Died and Rose According to the Scriptures”

**For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

- ⇒ The death of Christ can be explained and is explained by the Hebrew Scriptures.
- ⇒ The Hebrew Scriptures testify to his death.

Paul only taught from the Hebrew Scriptures. In the context of the New Testament, scripture refers to the Hebrew Scriptures and when we read these passages that mention scripture, we should read them in that light. Anything that agrees with the Torah is scripture. The Torah is the Word of God. The Word that came directly out of the mouth of God. The Word of God is Truth.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

