

Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together

Understanding the Christian Scriptures

Lesson #1

Introduction

I. The Christian Scriptures

- A. This is the Christian Scriptures called the Bible.
 - 1. It has two parts.
 - 2. The first part is larger and the second part smaller.
- B. What are the two parts of the Christian Scriptures called?
 - 1. The Old Testament
 - 2. The New Testament

II. The Old Testament is also the scriptures of another religion.

- A. What religion is it?
- B. Why would the scriptures of another religion be included in the Christian Scriptures?
- C. That's what this lesson will be about.

Body

I. The Old Testament – The first and larger part of the Christian Bible

- A. The Old Testament is also the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - 1. It was originally written in Hebrew and some Aramaic.
 - a. It is the scriptures of the Hebrew people.
 - b. It is the scriptures of modern Judaism.
 - 2. It is called the Tanakh by Judaism.
 - a. Tanakh is an acronym: TaNaK
 - b. It stands for the three parts of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - T – Torah - Law (writings of Moses)
 - N – Nevi'im - Prophets (historical books)
 - K – Ketuvim - Writings (including Psalms)
- B. The Hebrew Scriptures are God's communication to the Hebrews.
 - 1. It is the history of the Hebrew people.
 - 2. It is God's message to the Hebrews and all peoples of the world.
 - 3. It tells of the Messiah, the promised one, who would save the Hebrew people and the world.
- C. There are two lines of prophecy about the Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - 1. The conquering leader who saves Israel and rules the nations
(1. Isaiah 11:1-10; Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 2:6-11; Psalm 110:1-2; Micah 4:3)
 - 2. The suffering savior who frees the people from their sin and suffering
(2. Isaiah 53:1-12; Psalms 22:1-16; Isaiah 61:1-2; Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 25:7-9)

II. New Testament – The second, shorter part of the Christian Bible

A. The Messiah in the New Testament

1. Messiah = Christ

- a. The word “Christ” is Greek for the Hebrew word “Messiah.”
- b. The name “Jesus Christ” means Jesus is the Messiah.
- c. The word “Christian” means “Messiahian” or one who believes Jesus is the Messiah.

2. The message of the New Testament is that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).

- a. The New Testament records Jesus claiming to be the Christ.
(3. John 4:25-26; Mark 14:60-62)
- b. The New Testament opens with the claim that Jesus is the Messiah.
(4. Matthew 1:1)
- c. The New Testament states the intent to convince that Jesus is the Christ.
(5. John 20:30-31)

B. The Hebrew Scriptures in the New Testament

1. In the New Testament, the Old Testament is called the “Scriptures” or The Law, Prophets and Psalms and it claims they tell of Jesus.

- a. In the Emmaus Road story **(6. Luke 24:25-27)**
- b. By Paul **(7. Acts 17:2-3; Acts 28:23)**
- c. By Jesus **(8. John 5:39, 46)**

2. The New Testament claims Jesus is the one the prophets of the Hebrew Scripture told about.

- a. In the Gospels **(9. Matthew 8:16-17; Matthew 21:4-5; John 19:23-24)**
- b. In Acts and the Epistles **(10. Acts 10:36-43; Rom 1:1-4)**

III. Is Jesus the Messiah?

A. View of Judaism - Jesus is not the Messiah

1. Judaism focuses on the conquering leader line of Messianic prophecies.
2. Jesus did not fulfill the conquering leader prophecies about the Messiah.
3. Judaism is still waiting for the Messiah.

B. View of Christianity - Jesus is the Messiah

1. Christianity focuses on both lines of Messianic prophecies, the conquering leader line and the suffering savior line.
2. Christianity believes Jesus will fulfill both lines of Messianic prophecies by coming twice.
 - a. Jesus fulfilled the suffering savior prophecies when he came the first time.
(11. Luke 4:16-21; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 2:36)
 - b. Jesus will come again and will fulfill the conquering leader prophecies.
(12. Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 19:10-16)

C. The importance of the resurrection and second coming of Jesus to Christianity’s claim that he is the Messiah.

1. The Resurrection:

- a. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, he could not be the Messiah and Christianity’s claims would be false. **(13. I Corinthians 15:14-20)**
- b. In the resurrection God confirmed the claim that Jesus is the Messiah

(14. Mark 14:61-64; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 1:1-4)

2. The Second Coming:

a. If Jesus does not return and fulfill the conquering leader prophecies, he could not be the Messiah and Christianity's claims would be false.

b. Unbelievers doubt he will return, but Christians wait for him.

(15. 2 Peter 3:2-13)

c. Christians believe Jesus fulfilled the suffering savior prophecies at his first coming and he will come again and fulfill them all.

(16. 1 Peter 1:7-13; Revelation 22:20)

Conclusion

I. In Review: The Hebrew Scriptures of Judaism, are also the Old Testament of the Christian Scriptures.

A. The Hebrew Scriptures has two lines of prophecies about the Messiah,

1. The conquering leader prophecies and the suffering servant prophecies

2. Judaism focuses on the conquering leader prophecies.

B. Christianity focuses on both lines of prophecies.

1. Believes Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ)

2. Believes Jesus fulfilled the suffering servant prophecies and will come again, fulfilling the conquering leader prophecies

3. Believes the purpose of the New Testament is to show that Jesus is the Christ prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures

II. The title of our lesson series - Connections: How the Old and New Testaments fit together.

A. This lesson: Understanding the Christian Scriptures

1. The Christian Scriptures have two parts, the Old Testament, containing the prophecies about the Christ and the New Testament claiming Jesus is the Christ.

2. The Old and New Testaments are connected and fit together because the Christian Scriptures need the Hebrew Scriptures, for without them we would not know about the Messiah.

B. Other lessons in our series

a. Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures

b. Understanding the Titles of the Christian Scriptures

c. Understanding the History in the Christian Scriptures

III. Closing: These prophecies may seem unclear now, but we will see our Messiah in person soon. **(17. 1 Corinthians 13:12)**

Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together

Understanding the Christian Scriptures - Lesson #1

Scriptures to Read During the Lesson

(1. Isaiah 11:1-10; Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 2:6-11; Psalm 110:1-2; Micah 4:3)

[Isaiah 11:1-10] A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him. . . . with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. . . . The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. . . . They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. (NIV)

[Daniel 7:13-14] I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed. (KJV)

[Isaiah 9:6-7] For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (KJV)

[Psalms 2:6-11] "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. (NIV)

[Psalm 110:1-2] The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. (KJV)

[Micah 4:3] And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (KJV)

(2. Isaiah 53:1-12; Psalms 22:1-16; Isaiah 61:1-2; Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 25:7-9)

[Isaiah 53:1-12] Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (NIV)

[Psalm 22:1-16] My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? . . . All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (NIV)

[Isaiah 61:1-2] The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, (NIV)

[Zechariah 9:9-10] Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.... He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (NIV)

[Isaiah 25:7-9] On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD

has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (NIV)

(3. John 4:25-26; Mark 16:60-62)

[John 4:25-26] The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am [He.]" (NASB)

[Mark 14:60-62] The high priest stood up [and came] forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed [One?]" And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." (NASB)

(4. Matthew 1:1) The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: (NASB)

(5. John 20:30-31) Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (NASB)

(6. Luke 24:25-27) He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow 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. (NIV)

(7. Acts 17:2-3; Acts 28:23)

[Acts 17:2-3] And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and [saying,] "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." (NASB)

[Act 28:23] When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. (NASB)

(8. John 5:39, 46) You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me . . . If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. (NIV)

(9. Matthew 8:16-17; Matthew 21:4-5; John 19:23-24)

[Matthew 8:16-17] When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (NIV)

[Matthew 21:4-5] This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" (NIV)

[John 19:23-24] When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did. (NIV)

(10. Acts 10:36-43; Romans 1:1-4)

[Act 10:36, 43] "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) . . . "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins." (NASB)

[Romans 1:1-4] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)

(11. Luke 4:16-21; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 2:36)

[Luke 4:16-21] He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (NIV)

[Luke 24:44-48] He said to them, "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 for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (NIV)

[Act 2:36] "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." (NIV)

(12. Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 19:10-16)

[Act 1:9-11] After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (NIV)

[Hebrews 9:28] So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (KJV)

[Revelation 19:10-16] “. . . Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus." I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (NIV)

(13. I Corinthians 15:14-20) And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God--for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. . . . And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. . . . But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead.... (NLT)

(14. Mark 14:61-64; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 1:1-4)

[Mark 14:61-63] . . . Then the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I AM. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" "Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!" (NLT)

[Act 2:22-36] "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" (NLT)

[Romans 1:1-4] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)

(15. 2 Peter 3:2-13) Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone

to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. . . . But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (NIV)

(16. 1 Peter 1:7-13; Revelation 22:20)

[1Peter 1:7-13] . . . so that the proof of your faith, [being] more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. 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. Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober [in spirit,] fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (NASB)

[Revelation 22:20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (NKJV)

(17. 1 Corinthians 13:12) For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully . . . (NIV)

Suggested Readings for Further Study
For Lesson #1 - Understanding the Christian Scriptures

I. The progressive detail of Messianic prophecies

1. Genesis 3:12-19 - He will be human.
2. Genesis 12:1-3 - He will come through Abraham and will bless all people.
3. Genesis 49:10 - He will be from the line of Judah.
4. Numbers 24:15-17 - He will be a king of Israel.
5. Deuteronomy 18:15 - He will be like Moses.
6. 2 Samuel 7:12-17 - He will be from the line of King David.
7. Daniel 9:24-25 - He will come at a certain time.
8. Micah 5:2 - He will be born in Bethlehem.
9. Zechariah 9:9-10 - He will enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

II. Do an internet and YouTube search for: The prophecies about the Messiah in the Bible.

III. Recommended texts for further study:

1. What the Bible Is All About by Henrietta Mears
2. Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter