

What Did Jesus Believe?

A common devotional question when faced with issues of life is “What would Jesus do?”. I think an even more relevant question for the modern Christian is – “When it comes to the Bible, what did Jesus believe?”. I remember as a college student my brother Rob had a liberal theologian who was teaching his Old Testament Bible class and scoffing at the seven day creation and other historical/miraculous events. Rob asked him, “Do you think Jesus believed these accounts?” This was a very unsettling question, because it meant that this professor claimed to have greater knowledge and sophistication than God the Son – Jesus Christ. What about you? Do you believe the Bible as Jesus did or do you view yourself as having a greater ability to judge the Bible than God? In this study we will look at what Jesus believed in terms of the authority of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God and then allow this to judge our own thoughts, intentions, words and actions.

You will notice that in the gospels the way God the Son quotes a verse is often not exactly the same as the way God the Holy Spirit had it recorded. This is not a contradiction as God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are both One and God. If God the Son wishes to expand upon or clarify a statement as inspired by God the Holy Spirit He is free to do so. If your father gives you instructions and then later your father expands or clarifies these instructions when referring back to his original statement, then he is free to do so. You however, when relating these instructions to your brothers and sisters do not have this same freedom. Even so, God the Son may use the discretion of God in quoting Scriptures that we may not use. The reason being, God the Son is God and whatever He says is by definition Holy Scripture. We on the other hand are sinful men and as a result it is our duty to quote the Word of God word perfect without taking liberties. We must always remember the clarification of God the Holy Spirit in John 21:25 ***“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.”*** In this passage God reminds us that the Gospels are not a complete history of the actions, words and teachings of Jesus. The Word of God is the Word of God, whether spoken by God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. We accept the quotes of Jesus as representations of the heart of God because He is God. We do not question the mind of Jesus nor the inspired words of the Holy Spirit, but rather we appreciate the fact that God speaks to us and we accept His holy, eternal, inerrant, written word as that which judges us and not subject to our judgment.

(Note to student: Duplicate accounts have been eliminated to make the study a little more wieldy. Also the Old Testament reference is given in italics.)

Read the passage and then answer the following questions as they apply. (Not all passages will have specific application to the questions. In addition some passages will have a broad reference so you can draw the logical conclusions in your answers.)

- What Scriptures did Jesus hold as authoritative? -
- What authority or confidence did Jesus place in the written Word of God? (circle the word or phrase. Example: “written”, “Scriptures”, “Law”, “read”, “book”, “command” etc.)
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EXAMPLE...

Matthew 8:4 (Leviticus 13:49 & 50; 14:2 & 3) Luke 13:49; 14:2) *And Jesus said to him, " See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

What Scriptures did Jesus hold as authoritative?

The phrase "Moses commanded" indicates that Jesus held the writings of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) to be inspired of God.

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Jesus states in this passage, "that Moses commanded, as a testimony". This gives specific credence and authority to the written Word of God and not just oral tradition. The reference here is to the specific commands of Moses as given in the written Law of Moses. The fact that Jesus quotes from the Book of Leviticus is further evidence of the emphasis on the written Law over oral tradition.

What individuals did Jesus hold as uttering divinely inspired words?

Moses

What implied historical events or individuals did Jesus hold as true? (This may be specifically stated or it may be implied by the context of a passage quoted by Jesus)

One may not separate out the historical events of Genesis through Deuteronomy from the commands of the Law as given by Moses. It is obvious that Jesus held the first five Books of the Bible – the Law of Moses, to be inspired by God, written by Moses and passed down to us intact. Jesus held that Moses was in fact an historical figure, that he alone was responsible for writing the first five Books of the Bible and that the contents of these Books carry the weight and authority of the Word of God.

Luke 24:27 *Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*

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Luke 24:44-47 *Now He said to them, " These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,*

46 and He said to them, " Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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Matthew 4:4 (Deuteronomy 8:3) **But He answered and said, "It is written , 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"**

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Matthew 12:3 - 7 (I Samuel 21:1 – 10; Hosea 6:6)

But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, ' I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

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Matthew 15:4 (Exodus 20:12; 21:17)

"For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.'"

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John 8:39 & 58 ***They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham . Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."***

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Mark 7:9-10 (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16) ***He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH';***

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Mark 12:24-26 (Exodus 3:6) *Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ' I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, and the God of Jacob'?*

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Luke 6:3-5 (I Samuel 21:1 – 10) *And Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him, how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?" And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

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Matthew 12:38-40 (Jonah 1:17) *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, " An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

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Mark 10:18-19 (Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20)*And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"*

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Matthew 21:42 (Psalm 118:22)*Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?"*

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Matthew 26:54-56*How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me. "But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.*

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Luke 4:17-21 (Isaiah 61:1) *And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

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John 10:35-36 (Psalm 82:6) *"If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"*

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John 10:34 (Psalm 82:6) *Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'?"*

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Matthew 24:37-40 (Genesis 61- 9:29) **37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

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Matthew 26:31-32 (Zechariah 13:7) **Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ' I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.' "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."**

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Mark 9:12-13 **And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."**

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Luke 7:27 (Malachi 3:1) ***"This is the one about whom it is written, 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'***

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Luke 10:26-28 (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; 18:5; Ezekiel 20:11) ***And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE***

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Luke 18:31 ***Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.***

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John 6:45 (Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 31:34) ***"It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.***

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Now fill in this chart based on the results of the study “What Did Jesus Believe?” Given your understanding of Jesus’ view of Scripture would He agree or disagree with Statements made by God the Father or God the Holy Spirit?

Read the teaching as given by God the Father or God the Holy Spirit and then place a check in the appropriate box...	Origin	Jesus Agrees	Jesus Disagrees
<i>Genesis 2:1-2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Genesis 1:3 Then God said , "Let there be light"; and there was light.</i>	God the Father		
<i>Genesis 2:21-22 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Genesis 6:17-18 "Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark — you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you."</i>	God the Father		
<i>Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Exodus 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, " Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt."</i>	God the Father		
<i>1 Timothy 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Genesis 11:1 & 7 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words..."Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."</i>	God the Father		
<i>Revelation 22:18-19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Jonah 1:17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah , and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		
<i>Ephesians 5:22-23 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.</i>	God the Holy Spirit		