How Did We Get Our Bible? The Origin and Authority of Scripture

#2: Core Beliefs about the Bible: Jesus' Own View of Scripture

Intro: When Deciding What to Believe about the Bible, Who Should We Listen to?

I. Why Does Jesus' View of the Bible Matter?

A. Who Better to Give us a Doctrine of Scripture than God Himself?
- As God in the flesh, Jesus has the divine authority to tell us how to think about the Bible
- But don't we know Jesus' teaching about the Bible from the Bible? Isn't this circular?

B. The Truth of Jesus and the Truth of the Bible Depend on One Another
- Jesus said the Bible is true. And the words of the Bible are Jesus' OWN words
- Therefore, if the Bible is wrong, then Jesus is wrong!
- "For if you believed Moses you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" John 5:46-47

II. What Did Jesus Think about the Old Testament?

Key question: Why do you think the OT is sometimes a problem for people's trust in the Bible?

A. The Old Testament Was <u>Historical</u>
- Jesus regards the OT as a literal, straightforward account of historical events
- He refers to Adam and Eve, Abel, Noah (and the flood), Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, manna in the desert, serpent in wilderness, David eating holy bread, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Zechariah, and more

B. The Old Testament was <u>Authoritative</u>
- Scripture was Jesus' court of appeal in all theological debates (e.g., "Have you not read what was said to you by God…" Matt 22:31; Matt 22:43; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37)
- Scripture was Jesus' court of appeal in all ethical debates (Jesus regularly appeals to the ten commandments! E.g., Matt 22:34-40)

C. The Old Testament was <u>Inspired</u>
- "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35)
  - Means Scripture cannot be falsified, invalidated, thwarted or proven wrong
  - This is why you can hope in God's promises. They will not fail!

- "Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass away from the Law until all is accomplished" (Mt 5:17-18)
  - The Scriptures are permanent, abiding, and unchanging
  - But doesn't it sometimes *seem* like Jesus is against the OT?

- Jesus regularly refers to the words of Scripture as the words of God
    - "Have you not read what was said to you by God…" then quotes Ps 84 (Matt 22:31)
    - "David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared…" then quotes Ps 110 (Mark 12:36)
    - "Have you not read that he who created them…said…" then quotes from Gen 2:24 (Matt 19:4-5)

III. Do the Words of Jesus Have Implications for a New Testament?

A. Jesus Said his Own Words Were Authoritative
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, by *my words* will not pass away (Matt 24:35)
- "Whoever is ashamed of me and of *my words* in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed" (Mark 8:38)
- "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations…teaching them to observe *all that I commanded to you*" (Matt 28:18-20)

B. Jesus Said the Apostles' Words Were Authoritative
- "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21)
- "It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of the Father speaking through you" (Matt 10:20)
- "If anyone will not receive you or listen to your words…it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town" (Matt 10:14)

C. This set the stage for a New Testament containing Gospels (words of Jesus) and letters (words of apostles)

Class Schedule (outline/MP3 will be on my website each week: www.michaeljkruger.com)

1. Jan 5: Core Beliefs about the Bible: Meaning and Importance of Inspiration
2. Jan 12: Core Beliefs about the Bible: Jesus' Own View of Scripture
3. Jan 19: Core Beliefs about the Bible: How Do We Know the Bible is God's Word?
4. Jan 26: Core Beliefs about the Bible: Sola Scriptura and the Reformation
5. Feb 2: Core Beliefs about the Bible: Role of Scripture in the Christian Life
6. Feb 9: Origins of the Bible: What about the So-Called "Lost" Books of the Bible?
7. Feb 16: Special Missions Sunday
8. Feb 23: Origins of the Bible: Have the Words of the Bible Been Changed?
9. March 1: Objections to the Bible: What about Offensive Passages and Doctrines
10. March 8: Objections to the Bible: Does the Bible Make Historical Mistakes?
11. March 15: Objections to the Bible: Why Are There So Many Differing Interpretations?
12. March 22: Objections to the Bible: Do the Miracles in the Bible Conflict with Science?
13. March 29: Objections to the Bible: What about Apparent Contradictions?