

# VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

## Introduction (1)

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,  
[Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

**Luke 24:27**

### How Jesus Read the Bible

1. Jesus **read** from and **reasoned** from the Scriptures. (Luke 2:41-52; 4:8-13; 18:31; 22:37; cf. John 5:39)
2. Jesus read the Scriptures **chronologically**. (Luke 24:44-49; cf. Heb 1:1-2)
3. Jesus **rightly divided** the word of truth. (Luke 20:41-44; cf. 2 Tim 2:15)
4. Jesus understood himself to be the **subject** of Scripture. (cf. John 5:39)

### How the Old Testament Saints Read the Bible

1. **As their life and liberty.** The OT Scriptures were part of God's covenant treaty that promised blessing and prosperity to those who kept the law, therefore it was there life (Deuteronomy 32, especially 32:47).
2. **As their love.** Those who knew God exulted in the delight of God's Word (Psalm 119).
3. **As their law.** When obedient, the people of Israel lived according to the instructions of God's Word. When disobedient, it was the word of God that was transgressed.
4. **As their light.** The prophets looked forward to the dawn of God's promises. Since the law of God could not make them righteous, its purpose was to point them to God's mercy and God's messiah who would accomplish righteous and renew the covenant.

### How the Apostles Read the Bible

1. **The early disciples preached from the Bible**
  - a. Peter in Acts 2:14-41 quotes Joel 2; Psalm 16; Psalm 45
  - b. Stephen in Acts 7:1-53 begins with Abraham follows redemptive history to Solomon
  - c. Paul in Acts 13:16-52 cites from the Psalms, Habbakuk, and Isaiah
2. **The epistles testify to the unity, authority, and saving message of the Bible**
  - a. Romans 15:4
  - b. 1 Corinthians 10:6
  - c. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
  - d. 1 Peter 1:19-21
  - e. Hebrews 1:1-3
3. **Revelation affirms blessing of reading God's Word and the curse of tampering with it**
  - a. Revelation 1:1-3
  - b. Revelation 22:18-19

## Putting the Bible Together

4000 Years of History	Eternal Plan
1400 Years of Writing	6+ Billion People
66 Books	6000+ Languages
40 Authors	2000 Years of the Church
3 Languages	12 Disciples
2 Testaments	3 Persons
1 Gospel = 1 God	

# The Bible's Framework

## 1. Creation and New Creation: The Bookends of the Bible (Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22)

- a. **People.** Bride and Groom / Bride and Groom
- b. **Place.** Garden / Garden-City
- c. **Rule.** Blessing / Eternal Blessing

## 2. Jesus Christ: The Center of the Bible

- a. Luke 24:26-27, 44-49
- b. John 5:39
- c. Ephesians 1:10
- d. Hebrews

## 3. The Old Testament Body

- a. **A Kingdom Skin.** The Kingdom of God is the theme that runs throughout the entire Bible. Just like skin, this is what you *see* in the OT. God's Rule over God's People in God's Place originates in Genesis and culminates in Revelation. This tripartite theme (Rule, People, Place) will help us understand the unity of God's message as we travel the Emmaus Road.
- b. **A Canonical Skeleton.** The shape of the OT is determined by three progressive sections.
  - i. **The Law (*Torah*):** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  - ii. **The Prophets (*Naviim*)**
    - 1. Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings
    - 2. Latter Prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and The Book of the Twelve
  - iii. **The Writings (*Ketuvim*)**
    - 1. ***Lyrical / Wisdom:*** Psalms (with Ruth prefixed), Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations
    - 2. ***Narrative:*** Daniel, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, 1-2 Chronicles
- c. **A Christian Heart.** Jesus Christ is the heart of the Bible. Without him, there is no life at all, and all the OT anticipates his arrival. The OT makes one wise for salvation (2 Tim 3:14-15) and prepares the way for the Son's incarnation (Matt 1:1-17; Gal 4:4). The faith of Israel in the OT was faith in a coming messiah, a seed of the woman who would crush the enemies of God's people and bring salvation and rest (Gen 3:15). Over time, these messianic hope grew to include other offices (prophet, priest, king) and even attributes of divinity (Isa 9:6-7). It worth noticing that Hebrews 11 shows that OT and NT faith is the same in content, different only in clarity.

## 4. The Content of the New Testament

- a. **Gospels.** Fourfold testimony that recounts Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection. Together they give us a multi-faceted portrait of our savior, one that relates OT promise to NT fulfillment.
- b. **Acts.** An early account of the Church, beginning in Jerusalem moving to Rome and beyond.
- c. **Epistles.** Situational letters that help clarify the person and work of Jesus and ground the church in the faith once for all delivered to the saints.
- d. **Revelation.** An apocalyptic vision that recounts God's work in history and in the future.

## 5. Summary: "The Bible is..."

- a. **An Anthology.** The Bible is comprised of an array of diverse genres proclaiming one unified message.
- b. **Autobiographical.** More accurately, the Bible is Theo-biographical, revealing the Triune God.
- c. **Analogous.** God's word is entirely true, but it does not tell us everything (Deut. 29:29). God used human conventions of language and culture to perfectly convey his redemptive purposes.
- d. **Authoritative.** The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and authoritative. We must humbly submit to it.
- e. **All You Need.** The Bible is sufficient for life & godliness. It gives us God and calls us to worship.