

“Bible Revelation” series October-November @ Cranstoun

Over the past few months, we have run a series of *“Proof of the Pudding”* articles in the TVP Newsletter that have acted as a lead in to our exciting Autumn *Christian Education* sessions, which will use the recently installed new technology at Cranstoun. So, by way of introduction and *setting the scene* please find below the series of articles in one merged block along with your personal invite to our *“Bible Revelation”* sessions starting in October.

Proof of the Pudding: parts 1-3



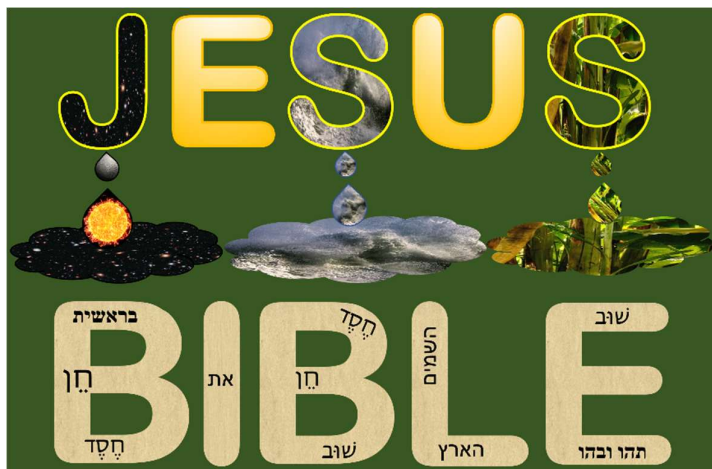
Have you ever enjoyed a beautifully cooked multi-course dinner at a special event, perhaps a wedding? Possibly the chef may have treated you to an *Amuse-bouche*, followed by a starter course, then the main course, and after a suitable pause the dessert and finally, a cheese board and coffee.

I shared an interesting question with a couple of TVP Home Bible Study Groups and wondered how folks might answer; we never shared our answers. **How would you describe the Old Testament in a sentence?** We allowed ourselves a minute to think about it. What would your answer be?

Then I shared what Jesus said, *“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”* Then in a sentence Jesus said, *“Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”* (Luke 24:44, 46–47 NET)

Was Jesus’ sentence anything like your answer? How did Jesus see that in the Old Testament? Where does a multi-course dinner fit in? Well, we read how Jesus shared with the disciples that the scriptures, i.e., the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms were about Him (Luke 24:44). Our Old Testament (OT) is about three quarters of our Bible, i.e., 929 chapters v 260 chapters in the New Testament (NT), and yet how familiar are we with the OT? How often do we seriously study it? Do we meditate on it day and night, or do we miss the blessing? (Psalm 1:2)

Our OT is Jesus’ Bible, although in a different order that doesn’t always appear to make sense, i.e., Kings followed by Chronicles!?! The original Hebrew order called the TaNaK was Jesus’ order: the Law of Moses (*Torah*), being our Pentateuch; the Prophets (*Nevi’im*) including most of our History and most of our Prophets; the Psalms that start the Writings (*Ketuvim*), which includes the rest with the Wisdom literature, Daniel and Chronicles... check out an excellent video here... <https://bibleproject.com/videos/old-testament-tanak/>



Going back to our multi-course dinner and our Protestant Old Testament order... then if the *Amuse-bouche* is Genesis 1-9, and the rest of the Pentateuch the *“starter”*, then we could say the History & Poetic books are the *main* course, and after a suitable pause the Prophets are the *dessert*; this leaves the NT as the cheeseboard and coffee. However, how many of us miss out on the *Amuse-bouche*, starter, main, and dessert part of our Bible meal, as we focus too much on the cheese board and coffee? I’m sure a dietician would frown on such a diet, and probably God is saddened by such a Bible diet in our life.

So, where did Jesus get that one sentence OT summary in Luke 24:46–47? A while ago I came across an amazing Bible hyperlink by Jesus. So, in Luke 24 Jesus said that the TaNaK is about Him, and the TaNaK says that He would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:46). Do we see that in Jesus’ Bible, our Old Testament? In Matthew we read that during the fourth conflict in a row with the scribes and Pharisees Jesus responds with this incredibly rich TaNaK-hyperlinked statement. As you read it can you spot the *hyperlinks*, and you will recall the scribes and the Pharisees were steeped in the TaNaK...

Then some experts in the law along with some Pharisees answered Him, *"Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."* But Jesus answered them, *"An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. The people of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented when Jonah preached to them—and now, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon—and now, something greater than Solomon is here!"* Matthew 12:38-42 (NET)

Jesus had just healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute... and still they asked Jesus for a sign! Jesus first quotes from the *Law of Moses (Torah)* addressing the then coming rebellion of the Israelites (*Deuteronomy 32:5, etc.*) *"An evil and adulterous generation..."* Jesus then prophesies of His death sharing from Jonah (*Jonah 1:17*)... adding a condemnation from the people of Nineveh... *"The Prophets" (Nevi'im)*. Jesus completes the TaNaK trio by adding the condemnation of the queen of the South (*1 Kings 10:1-13*) and the Wisdom of Solomon; the hyperlink to *"The Psalms" (Ketuvim)*.

So, can you recall how you described the Old Testament in a sentence? Jesus' Bible is richer in teaching and spiritual insight than we can ever imagine, our lifetimes are too short. The Bible of Matthew, John, Paul, even Peter, saturates their New Testament writings with insights. Are you focusing only on the *Cheese Board*? We should set aside time to balance our Bible diet. The *Amuse-bouche (Genesis 1-9)* is the place to start, everything else through to Revelation replays those themes adding clarity... over and over. So, enjoy the full meal and don't settle for just the *Cheese Board & coffee*... Jesus invites us to the great banquet... at the wedding celebration of the Lamb (*Revelation 19:9*). Sadly, one had bought a field, another five yoke of oxen, another had just married... so they excused themselves and missed out. (*Luke 14:16-24*)

Following on from the above, here's a quote from David L. Baker, *"One of the most fundamental questions which has faced theology and the Church in every age is whether or not Christianity also needs an Old Testament. Is the Old Testament to be thrown away as obsolete, or preserved as a relic from days of yore, or treasured as a classic and read by scholars, or used occasionally as a change from the New Testament, or kept in a box in case it should be needed some day? Or is the Old Testament an essential part of the Christian Bible, with continuing validity alongside the New Testament?"*



Similar to the very successful *"Bible Odyssey"* we ran two years ago, Praise God, this Autumn I'll be leading a series ***"Bible Revelation"*** where we'll look at what is the Old Testament. It will include a whole toolkit of techniques to demystify and transform Biblical understanding; using potted plants & an Aspen Grove, Van Gogh & M.C. Escher, a family quilt & the Mona Lisa, Louis Armstrong & Lord of the Rings. That's just for starters, and there'll be no AI.

Focusing on Genesis 1-3, we'll be opening up Jesus' Bible on Tuesday evenings in October & November in Cranstoun, making use of its new tech, lasting an hour and preceded by Christine's hospitality. It would be great if you could join us for this free *one-off* series... *unless you have just bought a field, or five yoke of oxen, or just got married...* 😊

Please let me know if you can join us, as we will order some *Bible Revelation* goodies just for you.

Allister Crompton (TVP Lay Pastor)