

JESUS AND THE BIBLE

Luke 24; John 3.1-15; Proverbs 30.2-5

The Stranger Speaks

How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?
Luke 24.25-26

Burning Hearts

Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? Luke 24.32

Jesus and the Scriptures

*This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that was written about me in the **Law of Moses**, the **Prophets** and the **Psalms**.* Luke 24.44

Jesus and Nicodemus

Think back to the famous encounter between our Lord and the learned Jewish scholar Nicodemus (John 3). I suppose this chapter is one of the most well-known texts in the Bible. Yet we still have lessons to learn from it.

Things of the Heavens

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:13-15

Heavenly Riddle

*I am the most ignorant of men;
I do not have a man's understanding.
I have not learned wisdom,
nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.
Who has gone up to heaven and come down?
Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands?
Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is his name, and the name of his son?
Tell me if you know!* Proverbs 30.2-4

According to the Scriptures

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.* 1 Corinthians 15.3-5

As we think back to the words of the resurrected Jesus to the disciples, we may note that he speaks of the entire Scriptures as attesting to the events of his life, death and resurrection. When Jesus spoke of the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms, he was speaking of the whole Bible.

- The **Law of Moses** is a way of speaking of the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy.
- The **Prophets** include what we think of as the books of the prophets (except for Daniel), plus the early books of history (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings).
- The **Psalms** head the last section of the Bible, sometimes called the Writings, which includes the books of poetry and wisdom, the stories of Ruth and Esther, plus the books of Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

Since Jesus says each of these three sections of the Bible points to his death and resurrection, we may assert some major concepts respecting the Savior and the Scriptures:

- All of the Scripture points to the Savior.
- Each part of the Hebrew Bible looks forward to him.

In the next three weeks we will look at the Psalms. What we will see is that Jesus was born to die, he was born to rule, and one day he will be on the throne.