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Question 59 - How did Jesus view the writings of the Old Testament?

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

59. How did Jesus view the writings of the Old Testament?

- A. His general statements about the Old Testament:
1. He said He came to fulfill and not to destroy it (Mt. 5:17).
 2. He said it is exact in all details, down to the smallest stroke and letter (Mt. 5:18b).
 3. He said it would abide forever (Mt. 5:18a).
 4. He said it could not be broken (Jn. 10:35).
 5. He said it spoke of Him (Lk. 24:25-27, 44; Jn. 5:39).
- B. His specific references to the Old Testament during His earthly ministry our Lord referred to the following Old Testament individuals and incidents:
1. The marriage of Adam and Eve (Mk. 10:6-8).
 2. The martyrdom of Abel (Mt. 23:35).
 3. The Great Flood in Noah's day (Mt. 24:37-39).
 4. The destruction of Sodom (Lk. 17:28).
 5. The death of Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32).
 6. The millennial fellowship believers will enjoy with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Mt. 8:11).
 7. Moses and the burning bush (Mk. 12:26).
 8. Moses and the heavenly manna (Jn. 6:32, 58).
 9. The bronze serpent in the wilderness (Jn. 3:14).
 10. David's partaking of the consecrated bread (Lk. 6:3-4).
 11. The Queen of Sheba and Solomon (Mt. 12:42).
 12. The glory of Solomon (Mt. 16:29; Lk. 12:27).
 13. Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (Lk. 4:25).
 14. Elisha and Naaman the leper (Lk. 4:24).
 15. Jonah and the sea monster (Mt. 12:39-40).
 16. The repentance of Nineveh (Mt. 12:41).
 17. Isaiah's condemnation of Israel (Mk. 7:6-7).
 18. The martyrdom of Zechariah (Mt. 23:35).
 19. Daniel and the Abomination of Desolation (Mt. 24:15).
- C. His personal usages of the Old Testament

It has been estimated that over one-tenth of Jesus' recorded New Testament words were taken from the Old Testament. In the four gospels, 180 of the 1800 verses that report His discourses are either Old Testament quotes or allusions. Following are some key examples:

1. During his temptations

- a. The first temptation – In Mt. 4:4 he quotes Deut. 8:3.
 - b. The second temptation – In Mt. 4:7 he quotes Deut. 6:16.
 - c. The third temptation – In Mt. 4:10 he quotes Deut. 6:13.
2. During his Sermon on the Mount
 - a. In Mt. 5:21 he quotes Ex. 20:13; the sixth commandment.
 - b. In Mt. 5:27 he quotes Ex. 20:14, the seventh commandment – Also compare Mt. 5:31 with Deut. 24:1. Note: He later quotes some of the same commandments during his talk with a rich young ruler. See Mk. 10:19.
 3. During his hometown sermon – In Lk. 4:18-19 he quotes Isa. 61:1-2.
 4. During various confrontations with Jewish rulers
 - a. As he defended his associating with sinners – In Mt. 9:13 he quotes Hosea 6:6.
 - b. As he expounds on marriage – In Mk. 10:7-8 he quotes Gen. 2:24.
 - c. As he is asked concerning the greatest of the commandments – In Mk. 12:29-30 he quotes Deut. 6:4-5.
 - d. As he rebukes their vain traditions – In Mt. 15:7-9 he quotes Isa. 29:13.
 - e. As the Pharisees question his authority – In Jn. 8:17 he quotes Deut. 17:6.
 5. During his tribute to John the Baptist – In Lk. 7:27 he quotes Malachi 3:1.
 6. During his triumphal entry day – In Mt. 21:16 he quotes Psa. 8:2.
 7. During his cleansing of the temple – In Lk. 19:46 he quotes Isa. 56:7.
 8. During a parable about Israel – In Mt. 21:42, 44 he quotes Psa. 118:22-23; Isa. 8:14-15.
 9. During a question session in the temple – In Mk. 12:36 he quotes Psa. 110:1.
 10. During his last Passover night – Predicting the world would hate the disciples as they hated him – In Jn. 15:25 he quotes Psa. 35:19; 69:4.
 11. On the cross
 - a. His fourth utterance – In Mt. 27:46 he quotes Psa. 22:1.
 - b. His seventh utterance – In Lk. 23:46 he quotes Psa. 31:5.

Norm Geisler and Ron Brooks aptly summarize Jesus' view by pointing out what He taught in regards to the Hebrew Bible. He spoke of its:

1. Authority – Mt. 22:43
2. Reliability – Mt. 26:54
3. Finality – Mt. 4:4, 7, 10
4. Sufficiency – Lk. 16:31
5. Indestructibility – Mt. 5:17-18
6. Unity – Lk. 24:27, 44
7. Clarity – Lk. 24:27

8. Historicity – Mt. 12:40
9. Facticity (scientifically) – Mt. 19:2-5
10. Inerrancy – Mt. 22:29; Jn. 3:12; 17:17
11. Infallibility – Jn. 10:35
(*When Skeptics Ask*. Victor Books. A Division of Scripture Press. USA, Canada, England. 1990. p. 143).