

Luke records that Jesus made many allusions in His Gospel that His appearance and work in the world had been prophesied in the Old Testament.

After His resurrection, in His appearances to the disciples, Jesus now explicitly makes the claim that the Old Testament is all about Him. Here are two examples that Luke give when He does this

On the road to Emmaus when speaking to the two downcast disciples , 'he said to them *"O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that He Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:25-27)

Returning from Emmaus to Jerusalem to tell the 11 apostles the news, Jesus Himself, suddenly appeared in their midst. *"...he said to them, "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 He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:44-47).*

{John reports Jesus as saying a similar thing:

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39,46)}

Intro

During His ministry, Jesus references to Himself in the Old Testament are, for the most part, implicit. There are very few places He explicitly says in effect – 'That is me'. However, on the day of the resurrection He breaks cover. He goes from 'hinting' to 'grabbing the lapels' of the disciples and saying in effect 'the Old Testament is all about me.

I want to look at this through the lens provided by Jesus' Words (Luke 24:44)
"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." (Luke 24:44)

'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was with you'

What Jesus is referring to here is that sometime ago, back in Galilee, He had spoken of His betrayal and death. The Scriptures record this in (9:20)

When speaking privately to His disciples, He said - "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter Answered, "The Christ of God". And He strictly charged them and commanded them to tell no-one, saying, "the son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.

And then again a little later – *'But while they were all marvelling at everything He was doing, Jesus said to His disciples "Let these words sink into your ears: The son of man is about to be delivered into the hands of men" But they did not understand this saying and it was concealed from them so that they might not perceive it (9:44)*

Sometime later, as he was approaching Jerusalem for the last time, just days before His death, He said *"See we are going up to Jerusalem and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For He will be delivered over to the gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spat upon. After flogging Him they will kill Him and on the third day He will rise" But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them and they did not grasp what was said. (18:31ff)*

So, Jesus had told them repeatedly during His ministry of His impending betrayal and death in Jerusalem.

Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets and the Psalms

'It is written' was a way of referring to the Scriptures. They were held to be absolutely authoritative, the very Word of God. Thus, when Jesus was being tempted, His reply, which brooked no questioning or disagreement, was *"It is written (4:4, 8). In Truth, 'God said it'!*

In the same way Jesus follows on from this verse by saying: *'Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name, beginning at Jerusalem' (24:46)*

But where is it written and what are the Scriptures? Jesus describes them as the Law (first five books of the Bible), the prophets and the Psalms. These are the very Scriptures that He had spoken of with the two men on the road to Emmaus. It says, *'And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself' (24:27)*

He pointed to the authority of the Scriptures (what we now call the Old Testament) and pointed out many references which He said referred to Him.

Must be fulfilled

But why 'must'? Integrity is an admired characteristic. It means you see the whole picture and you do what is right. God perfectly exhibits this. He is absolutely dependable.

He says through the Prophet Isaiah, *'So shall my Word be that goes from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)*

Jesus demonstrated this when He said: *"I tell you the truth, the son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His father doing: (John 5:19)*

In the garden of Gethsemane knowing the crucifixion was before Him the next day ; Jesus prayed, saying *'Father if you are willing remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done' (22:42)*

Jesus had told them of His pending death in Jerusalem and His resurrection three days later. It was the will of the Father, foretold in Scripture and submitted to by Jesus.

Conclusion

There are two things that this teaches. Firstly, that God is in total control of all things. Secondly that the Scriptures are the written Word of God.

I believe that a total commitment to both these truths were the basis of Jesus' life and ministry. Furthermore, I believe that down the years, when the church has been at its most effective, these truths have been to the fore.

But what of you today. What do you think? Do you believe God is in total control? – then trust Him even when the clouds are dark and you can't understand what He is doing. And are you willing to submit to the Bible as God's Word? Then, read it and heed it. I pray that this is so.