

## Jesus and the New Testament Authors' Views on Scripture

- *John 5:39*. You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me,... (NET)
- *Matthew 5:18*. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (NIV)
- How did Jesus view (Old Testament) Scripture? Does God intend for us to believe the Bible?
- *John 6:63*. The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (NIV)
- *John 16:12-13*. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own authority, but will speak whatever he hears, and will tell you what is to come. (NET)
- How do these comments make you think about the New Testament?
- *2 Peter 1:19-21*. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)
- *2 Timothy 3:16*. Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work. (NET)
- How do the writers of the New Testament view (Old Testament) Scripture?
- *1 Corinthians 2:13*. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (NIV)
- *Galatians 1:11-12*. I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. (NIV)
- How did the writers of the New Testament view their words?
- Read Matthew 22:23-32. Compare with Mark 12:18-27 and Luke 20:27-40.

Jesus quotes Exodus 3. This is the call of Moses. God identifies himself as the God of Moses ancestors (whom Moses was likely familiar with).

The time tense of this verse (that God *is* the God of Abraham not God *was*), a seemingly minor point, was enough in Jesus view to defend the fact of the resurrection of the body. It is hard to find a higher view of Scripture than idea than that true doctrine is established in even minutia of Scripture.

I am not suggesting that all Scripture is easy to understand, nor that we form bizarre doctrines from questionable interpretations of difficult passages; merely that Jesus' view of Scripture is such that every word is trustworthy and true. Can we strive for any lower view in our own lives?