

BFF392 All Scripture Points to Jesus

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families podcast," with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am well. How are you?

Scott: A little under the weather, but not too bad.

Steve: Yeah. I'm physically well, but there's always something. My kitchen faucet died a couple of days ago, so we've been washing dishes in the laundry room.

Scott: Oh, no.

Steve: We are waiting for the plumber to come.

Scott: God bless you.

Steve: It's OK. This is life in this world.

Scott: Yep.

Steve: We're not exempt. Today is one of my favorite subjects.

Scott: Sweet.

Steve: It's finding Jesus in the Bible. I think I've said before that if I had the opportunity to go to wit's end and if it was real, and I can pick any time in history that I can go back. I would like to go back to the time when Jesus was on the road to Emmaus, and He had that Bible study with Cleopas and his friend. He explained to them everywhere that He appears in the Bible.

We're going to talk a little bit about that. Then we're going to focus on one specific aspect of Jesus in Scripture, which I have found immensely satisfying. I feel I'm just scratching the surface, even though when we're done, you might say, "Well, that was pretty comprehensive."

Let's pray. Father, we're very anxious to learn more about Jesus, to see more about Jesus in the Bible. I pray, Holy Spirit, since it's one of Your many functions is to point us to Jesus and to teach us about Jesus, I pray that You will teach us today. In Jesus name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: When Jesus was talking to the religious leaders of His day, who were familiar with the Old Testament, He reminded them, "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life, but the Scriptures bear witness of Me." (John 5:39)

The more I read the Old Testament, the more I see Jesus. Although sometimes I forget to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help me to see Jesus.

One year I was reading through the Bible, I'd finished Genesis and Exodus, and was now in Leviticus. Before I began reading that day, I prayed and asked God to reveal Jesus in His Word.

I hadn't gotten very far. First Chapter, the third and fourth verse, "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before Jehovah. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering. It shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."

Now, I knew that Jesus was the male without defect. What I saw that day, for the first time, was the instruction, "Lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering."

Immediately, the thought came to me, "This is Thomas." This is Jesus directing Thomas, "Put your hand here." Since Thomas was having trouble believing, Jesus, knowing all things and knowing Thomas, said, "Here, put your finger here and see my hands and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." (John 20:27)

As I read that passage, I started to tear up because I saw Jesus in Leviticus right in the first chapter. Let's keep working on that. As I mentioned before, Luke 24, when Jesus was walking along the road with Cleopas and his friend, even then they are talking back and forth with Jesus, don't recognize Him.

They began telling Him about the crucifixion and were surprised He didn't know what was going on, because everybody in the city was talking about it. In the 27th verse, "Beginning with Moses, and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures of things concerning Himself."

Later, when they were talking to each other, they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?" This is what we need. More than just reading the Bible, we need God to open it up. We need God to help us to see things that are not normally seen without, you might say, His divine flashlight.

In my mind, I picture Jesus picking up His flashlight and going through the Bible, from Genesis through Malachi, pointing out all the places where He was being foreshadowed.

Today, I want to focus on the lamb. The lamb is mentioned earlier than Leviticus. It's mentioned when Abraham is about to offer Isaac, when Isaac said, "Father, here's the sticks, there's the fire. We're going to have a sacrifice, but where's the sacrifice?" Abraham said, "Don't worry. God's got this. God sees what's going on and God supplied the lamb."

In the Book of Exodus, the children of Israel are about to leave Egypt. I'm going to read four verses, the 3rd, the 5th, the 7th, and the 13th verses from the 12th Chapter.

Third verse, "Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household."

Fifth verse, "This lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old."

Seventh verse, "They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it."

Thirteenth verse, "The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

This is where we get the word Passover, because when God sees the blood of the lamb, he will pass-over the children of Israel.

Now, I'm making these series of podcasts, and I'm putting a lot of this in a book. I don't want to tell the reader/listener every single thing in Scripture for that's part of the joy in reading the Bible, having the Holy Spirit enlighten you and develop His relationship with you, you and your teacher, the Spirit and you, with the word of God. As you discover truths, yourself, they mean more to you.

With this background, God's talking to the children of Israel, people who are familiar with the Passover. They're familiar with Abraham. They're familiar with offering sacrifices in the tabernacle and in the temple.

Now we get to Isaiah 53, which I'm pretty sure Jesus would have read to Cleopas and his friend, "My servant grew up in Jehovah's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him. He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

"Yet it was our weaknesses He carried, it was our sorrows that weighed Him down, and we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins. He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet Jehovah laid on Him the sins of us all.

"He was oppressed. He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before it shears is silent. He opened, not His mouth."

We see a really clear picture of Jesus taking our sins upon Himself, being whipped so we could be healed. We also see an image of us like sheep that have strayed away. Here is the lamb being sacrificed for "the sins of us all. Yet we like sheep have gone astray."

I'm finishing up my Bible reading for 2023. If I was not familiar with these passages, I would have missed out on what Peter is referencing in 1 Peter 2:21–25. Peter is assuming that his audience knows their Old Testament. Here's what he says, "Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps." "He committed no sin. Neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return. When He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin, and live to righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed."

It's almost word for word with Isaiah 53. He finishes up, "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and overseer of your souls." Peter, makes the clear connection between Isaiah 53 as he writes to the church.

He adds another thought, "You not only were straying like sheep, but you've returned to the Shepherd." Now, I have three thoughts. We have a lamb, straying sheep, and a shepherd. If it wasn't for Psalm 23, we wouldn't have had such an amazing picture of what a shepherd looks like.

"Jehovah is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His namesake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah forever."

Before I comment, let me read another little gem that I discovered in Ezekiel 34. "Thus says the Lord Jehovah, 'Behold, I, Myself, will search for My sheep and will seek them out as a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is amongst sheep that had been scattered. While I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.'"

'I, Myself, will be the shepherd of My sheep. I, Myself, will make them lie down, declares the Lord Jehovah.'" What an amazing panorama that God is painting all the way from Abraham offering up the lamb, to Exodus with the Passover lamb, to Isaiah, to Psalm 23 and now Ezekiel.

In the book of John, the first chapter, John assumes we know our Old Testament, when he declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." He's a lamb, but He's also a shepherd. Most of John 10 is about the Good Shepherd. "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd."

We know the name for Jehovah is based on the root word HAVAH, which means, "I Am that I Am." I think that's a clear connection and a knowledgeable listener would make the connection, "Oh, He's saying He's God" when He says, "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the Good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know Me."

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand." What a wonderful picture of a shepherd that goes after his sheep. Finds them. Takes care of them. And leads them into green pastures.

Here we have a picture of the shepherd who knows His sheep and lays His life down for the sheep. Then this shepherd is a lamb, because He's laying His life down for the sheep. The consummation of this line of this panorama is in Revelation, where there are over 20 references to the lamb. I chose one.

Revelation 7:17, "The lamb, in the midst of the throne, will be their shepherd. He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." The Bible is a seamless garment from Genesis to Revelation.

John 15:26, "When the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about me." We need to ask and seek for the help of the Spirit to help us to see Jesus because we can read words, but it comes to life when the Spirit is tutoring us and revealing things to us and making connections.

This morning was so fun putting all these passages together, and I left out a ton because I don't want to tell you everything. There's so much in the Bible, about the lamb, the Lamb of God, and the shepherd. This is our God. This is why we are what we are. We're followers of the shepherd. We're servants of the Lamb. There you go. That's what's on my heart for today.

Scott: One of the things I find so astounding about that is that He knew that there were going to be a lot of people reading His word, eventually, that weren't familiar with this culture. If you just read the New Testament, you can glean a fair amount about the shepherd and the sheep and the farming culture they had.

If you've read the Old Testament, and read Psalm 23 and the accounts of David watching over his sheep, it puts it all into Technicolor, because you realize their entire culture was steeped in all of this imagery.

When you see what Jesus is saying to them, you realize that when John the Baptist says, "Behold, the Lamb of God." That would have contained a lot of context for these people. If we have the Old Testament context, it opens up a whole world of knowledge for what He's talking about.

Jesus knew that we'd be reading this someday, and we would dig into that and at least think, "Oh, maybe there's more to this than just these words."

Steve: Yes. Absolutely. My heart is that we would all read all the scripture because like you say, it is ink on paper, but in this context it becomes Technicolor. That's a great illustration. It's Technicolor when you read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. If you read it with the help of the Spirit, and with your eyes open, you see things. Sometimes you don't see them right away. Sometimes it's just kind of building a base. Then all of a sudden, this light bulb goes on, and you say, "Wow, look at that. Wow, look at that." It's thrilling. The whole package put together is why when Jesus is introduced in John chapter 1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

Later he says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." He is the Word made flesh. He is Genesis to Revelation fleshed out. The more we read Genesis to Revelation, the more we're going to understand Jesus and not just get little snapshots, we're going to get the full picture. We do need God's help because sometimes we can read words and not get what they're really saying.

Scott: Yes.

Steve: Amen. Well, Father, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for the fullness of it and the completeness of it. Thank you, for the Spirit of God's help in crafting it through the apostles, through Moses, through David, through the prophets. Thank you that you have opened our eyes to what You have.

Continue to open our eyes. As we read the Word of God, I pray for a spirit of revelation, which Paul was praying for those that he was ministering to in Ephesus. Give us a spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Jesus as we read Your word. In Jesus name, Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families podcast," with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.