

*“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our **be-loved brother Paul** also according to the **wisdom given unto him** hath written unto you; (16) As also **in all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do **also the other scriptures**, unto their own destruction.”* (2 Peter 3:15-16)

The apostle Peter describes all of the apostle Paul's letters in the light of the “**other**” Scriptures. Peter equates Paul's epistles with the Old Testament Scriptures.

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### Peter reminds us of the OT and the NT

*“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds **by way of remembrance**: (2) that you should **remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.**”*  
(2 Peter 3:1-2)

In these verses, Peter stresses his desire for his readers to **remember**...

...remember the **Old Testament** (the words of the prophets of former times)

...remember the **New Testament** (the commands of Jesus via the apostles)

Peter is writing to the scattered (primarily Jewish converts) believers about the increasing dangers that they will face. In light of this, his strong encouragement is to **remember BOTH**, the Old Testament (the prophets) and the New Testament (the apostles).

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### Conclusion:

We would do well to heed Luke's words in Acts 17:11. This means we will **search the Scriptures daily** to validate and verify if a preacher or teacher is telling us the truth.

We would also be wise to **embrace the entire Bible as the Word of God... the Scriptures!**

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# What are the Scriptures?

By: Robert Dallmann

*“These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.”* (Acts 17:11)

### Search the Scriptures for Truth

We are told that the Bereans were more noble than the believers in Thessalonica because they listened to the apostle Paul's teachings and then they tested what Paul said against the Scriptures to verify that Paul's words were true.

So, ***what were the "Scriptures" that the people of Berea where using?*** By Jesus' day, observant Jews recognized all of what we call the "Old Testament" as being the Word of God... the Scriptures. Therefore, the Berean's were holding Paul and his teachings accountable to the Old Testament.

## WHAT ARE THE SCRIPTURES?

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God is so reliable, so unchangeable, that it is not surprising that Paul's doctrine should line up with what God had said previously. God is perfect; therefore, He does not change.

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### How do we know the Old Testament is the Word of God?

#### Jesus affirms the OT as Scripture!

*"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were WRITTEN IN the LAW OF MOSES, and in the PROPHETS, and in the PSALMS, concerning me. (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand THE SCRIPTURES," (Luke 24:44-45)*

In the passage quoted above, Jesus identifies the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms as being Scripture. Jesus also states that these Scriptures speak prophetically of Jesus Himself.

Therefore, if Jesus says that the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms are the Word of God... they are the Word of God!

*"He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out of his belly shall **flow rivers of living water**." (John 7:38)*

*"The mouth of a righteous man **is a well of life**..." (Proverbs 10:11)*

About the only part of the Old Testament that Jesus did not call "Scripture" in the previous passage was the Proverbs. In John 7:38 (quoted above), Jesus quotes the Scripture, and that quote is a reference to a verse in Proverbs.

Throughout the Gospels Jesus quotes from much of the Old Testament as "authoritative" and as "Scripture"... as the Word of God.

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#### The apostles affirm the OT as Scripture!

*"Then was **fulfilled** that which was spoken by **Jeremiah the prophet**, saying," (Matthew 2:17)*

*"That it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by **Isaiah the prophet**, saying," (Matthew 4:14)*

*"For these things were done, that the scrip-*

*ture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken." (John 19:36)*

Throughout the Gospels the Holy Spirit (through the human authors) quotes from and recognizes many parts of the Old Testament as "Scriptures".

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### How do we know the New Testament is the Word of God?

#### Jesus proclaims He has more to teach.

*"I have yet **many things** to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. (13) Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 16:12-13)*

Jesus tells His disciples that He has much more that He desires to teach them, but they could not yet handle it. He states that the coming Holy Spirit will guide them into all truth.

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**Peter says Paul's writings are Scripture!**