

Leaders Saying More Than God Says

By: Dan Jenkins

One of the studies that will open so many new doors of truth is to consider how much the Jewish leaders knew before the beginning of the New Testament. They obviously had studied the Old Testament and found many truths. The problem was that these leaders taught the people these truths, but they taught them more than the truth. Consider the following and then make application about how we view highly respected religious leaders today.

It is obvious that the scribes and Pharisees knew many truths. In their day, and also in ours, they tried to determine what the future held. Throughout the Old Testament, there were hundreds of prophecies about how God would continue His impact on His chosen nation.

Peter said this about those Old Testament prophets and their message as it applied to the first century. "All the prophets from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days" (Acts 3:24). This does not mean that those who read the prophecies fully understood them (see 1 Cor. 2:8-10), but it is also true that the Jews of the first century had developed their own religious theology.

What did these Jews understand? They knew that someday a great king would come. Even Herod was aware of this truth. When the wise men spoke of the

recent birth of the King of the Jews, Herod the Great asked the scribes as to where that King was to be born. The scribes knew the answer and said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this it is written by the prophet..." (Matt. 2:5). The message of the wise men was known, not just by Herod, but by "all of Jerusalem" (Matt. 2:3).

The leaders also knew that there would be a forerunner to come before that King. The very last of the Old Testament prophecies said, "I will send My messenger and he will prepare the way before Me... Behold, I will send Elijah before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord..." (Mal. 3:1; 4:5). Even the apostles knew that the scribes were teaching this truth. They asked Jesus, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" (Mark 9:11).

These leaders clearly knew the Bible, but they did not understand what it meant. The King was to be born in Bethlehem, and He would have Elijah come as His forerunner. The leaders were teaching the truth, but they were teaching more than the truth. They taught their opinions about the meaning of the words and felt their opinions were equal in authority with what God said. The people followed these leaders and were like blind men following a blind man (Matt. 15:14). There is so much more to be said. We will continue with these thoughts in next week's bulletin.

The Law and the Prophets

By: Selected

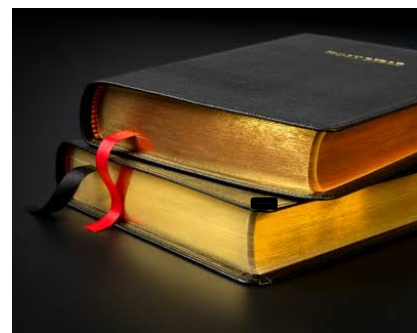
Bible readers will come across the expression, “the law and the prophets,” several times in the New Testament. It is important to know how the Bible uses that expression and what it means to us today.

The Hebrew Bible was not arranged in the exact order that our Old Testament is today. It was divided into three main sections: (1) The Law, (2) The Prophets and (3) The Writings. “The Law” consisted of the first five books of the Bible. “The Prophets” was subdivided into the “Former Prophets” (containing many of the historical books) and the “Latter Prophets” (containing most of the prophetic books). “The Writings” consisted of the poetic books and the remaining historical and prophetic books. Sometimes “The Writings” was referred to as “The Psalms,” after the largest book of that division.

In New Testament times, they did not immediately begin referring to the Old Testament as “The Old Testament,” for until “The NEW Testament” was revealed, it was not (to them) “The OLD Testament.” It was first in the book of Second Corinthians and the book of Hebrews (both in contexts of contrasting the old and the new covenants) that the writers referred to “the Old Testament” (2 Cor. 3:14) and “the first covenant” (Heb. 9:15). Until that differentiation was made between “The New” and “The Old,” the Hebrew Bible (the only Bible from God until the New Testament) was simply referred to (in short) as “the law and the prophets.” That was their way of identifying the collection of inspired books that we now call “The Old Testament” (see that clearly in Acts 13:15).

Now, look at what the New Testament tells us about the Old Testament (identified as “the law and the prophets”). “The law and the prophets were until John” (Luke 16:16). Note that marker of time, when a transition was being made to “the kingdom of God” or “the Way,” which was foretold “in the Law and the Prophets” (Acts 24:14) and becoming a reality in that day. Jesus said that He came to “fulfill” the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17), and then before His ascension, He affirmed “all things” had been “fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Luke 24:44).

What’s the point for us today? Jesus “abolished in His flesh...the law of commandments” (Eph. 2:15), for when He “fulfilled” all that was written in the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:44), He took that which was “obsolete” (Heb. 8:13) “out of the way” (Col. 2:14), and He brought His “new covenant” into “force” (Heb. 9:15-17). He took away the entirety of “the first that He may establish the second” (Heb. 10:9), under which we live today.



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. Please bring a covered dish/ dessert to share with visitors. We will also be recognizing the Youth with Summer Bible Series awards. There will also be a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow. Family pictures will also be taken for the bulletin.

Sunday, Sept. 13: Monthly youth devotional after evening services at the Cammock home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Wesley Taylor, Cody McCoy's barber, who just had hernia and esophagus surgery.

Ferman Rosales who went to the ER last week and was admitted to DeTar.

Service Roster

Week of September 6, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen
Closing Prayer..... Ken Dorries

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Billy York
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Jake Jacobs
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Bryce Dolan/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader Randy D'Herde
Devotional..... Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion..... Katy McCoy

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Cooper Siegel..... Sept. 11
Colt Richards..... Sept. 12

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class begins Sept. 8th at 10am here in the fellowship hall. They will be studying "Women of the Bible."

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobs—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for
tomorrow will worry about its own things.
Sufficeint for the day is its own trouble.
Matthew 6:34 NKJV

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 30, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....107
P.M. Worship.....67
Wednesday Worship.....56

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

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Southwest School of Bible Studies - Trey Jenkins &
Daniel Owens
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