



# ***INTRODUCTION***

Many people find the Old Testament uncomfortable. It's treated a little bit like the New Testament's strange, older cousin. To our modern, *enlightened* minds, what the Old Testament describes is outdated at best and primitive at worst – at least, that's often how it's portrayed.

And yet when Jesus – on the very same day that he rose from the dead – wanted to explain his mission and purpose to two of his friends, he chose to use words from the very same Old Testament (Luke 24:13–35).

There is nothing more important than knowing and understanding Jesus. He's often thought of as a good guy or a moral teacher, or even as a political and social activist. But it is only

by looking at the Old Testament that we can see that he is so much more.

Do you think the Old Testament is irrelevant? Are you overwhelmed by its size? Do you wonder why it makes up so much of the Bible?

My hope is that this book will answer these questions, showing that the Old Testament exists to teach us about who Jesus is and what he came to do. In other words, as we journey through the Old Testament, we'll see how it's a road map to Jesus.

Regardless of how you come to this book, I want you to be challenged and encouraged. Most importantly, I want to point you to Jesus so you can see how wonderful he is.



PART 1:

***A PATHWAY  
THROUGH THE  
OLD TESTAMENT***





# ***SETTING THE STAGE***

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)*

The Bible is a big book that has lots to say about Jesus, so the question is where do we start? As I've journeyed through the Christian life, one of the passages that has always intrigued me is Luke 24:13–35. Let me give you a quick summary.

Just after Jesus' crucifixion, all of his followers dispersed including the disciples who had been with him for three years. They were afraid that they could meet the same death if they were to stick around. Some locked themselves in an upper room of a building. Two others decided

to walk to Emmaus, which is about seven miles from Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified.

What those followers on the road to Emmaus didn't know is that Jesus had been resurrected – God had brought him back from the dead. As they walked along the road, the Bible tells us that they were discussing everything that had happened. I'm sure they were remembering the miracles they'd seen Jesus perform and his powerful teaching to the crowds. But I'm also sure that they were discussing how difficult and confusing it was that their friend and teacher was now dead. They would have been terrified, hurt, discouraged and lonely. The man they had trusted and believed in was suddenly gone, having been branded a criminal and executed despite having done nothing wrong.

As they walk, the resurrected Jesus joins them on their journey, but the Bible also tells us that they are kept from recognising him. Coming alongside them, Jesus asks what they're talking about and what's been going on in Jerusalem of late. One of the followers, a man named Cleopas, speaks up and tells him everything that has happened. Cleopas explains who they thought Jesus was and how he had been crucified, but

that, strangely, some of their friends went to his tomb that morning and found it empty. Jesus' body was gone.

Jesus asks them, and I paraphrase, 'Isn't that what you were expecting? The prophets (God's messengers in the Old Testament) said that the sent one from God must suffer before his glory.' He then began to explain to them, from the Old Testament, what was foretold about him.

I've read that passage so many times since becoming a Christian, and every time I have thought that I would love to have been a fly on the wall in that Bible study! Cleopas and his friend needed to be reminded of, or maybe to understand properly for the first time, who Jesus really was. If we're honest, we need that too.

While the Bible doesn't tell us exactly which Old Testament passages Jesus spoke about, there are plenty of key sections he could have chosen. We're going to walk through some of them and see how the Old Testament points us to Jesus, helping us to understand who he is and what he did for the world while on earth.

The Old Testament is a treasure chest that points to Jesus as the Son of God who came to earth in human flesh. His purpose

was to reconcile people to God and to restore their broken relationship. To know how that was possible, let's follow the map and journey together.





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# ***POWERFUL WORDS***

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. (Genesis 1:1–3)*

Words are powerful. The words used to describe us can either encourage or hurt. The way we are spoken to and spoken of can have a big impact on how our day goes and sometimes affect our future. However, our words do not have authority or power in the sense that we can control all things or create with our words. Right at the beginning of the Bible is the story

of creation. The book of Genesis talks about the creation of the world, including light, animals and humanity. But the main thing that it communicates is that God is great and powerful. In Genesis 1, the repeated refrain is that God said and it happened. Unlike us, God can speak things into being. His words are all-powerful and his control is absolute.

So as Jesus is walking down the road to Emmaus and explaining who he is, imagine how the two followers would have felt when they realised that they were in the presence of this God during his earthly ministry. But it shouldn't have been news to them really, because some of Jesus' followers and disciples had seen the power of his words before and surely would have told Cleopas and his friend all about it.

In Mark 4:35–41, Jesus and his 12 disciples are on a boat when there is a big storm. The waves crash against the boat and the seasoned fishermen are afraid, thinking that they are dying. All this time, Jesus is asleep. Out of fear, the disciples wake him up and ask Jesus whether he doesn't care if they die. Jesus gets up and commands the waves with his words: 'Quiet! Be still' (verse 39).

In that moment, the disciples get a glimpse of who they are following. Jesus is not just another man. Jesus is not just a great teacher who has started to gain popularity. As time goes on, the disciples would see more and more of who Jesus really is and that his words are powerful. In Mark 4–5 alone, we see that Jesus has power over creation, evil, illness and death. In each case, Jesus proves his power by the power of his words. He spoke and it happened.

Maybe you're reading this book because you too aren't sure what you make of Jesus yet. Maybe you've picked it up because you want to learn more about him or because you want to meet him for the first time. As we go on this journey together, we will see not only who Jesus is and what he did, but also how he continues to work in and through people today. Genesis, the beginning of the Bible, is just the beginning of the story. The end of the story is glorious.

Genesis speaks of a powerful and awesome God. In Jesus, we see that same God taking on flesh and becoming one of us. Jesus did so in order that we could know God and join his family. He gives us the opportunity to live the lives that we were created to live. Jesus has all authority

and power. The starting point of your journey is to see that the same all-powerful one who spoke the world into being and who calmed the waves some two thousand years ago is the same one who is calling you to consider for yourself who he is, maybe for the first time. He wants you to grow in your knowledge and love for him.