



## Searching the Scriptures.



HAT did Christ say to the people of his day concerning the Scriptures?

*"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."* John 5:39.

NOTE.—When this was spoken, not a word of the New Testament had been written. It was to the Old Testament that the Jews looked as their guide to eternal life; and although they would not accept Christ, he said that these very books which they esteemed so highly, testified of him. If the Old Testament points to Christ, it is worthy of our careful study.

2. How early have we any record that the gospel was preached?

*"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham."* Gal. 3:8.

3. Was it the gospel of Christ that was preached unto Abraham?

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."* John 8:56.

4. At what other time is it said the gospel was taught in the Old Testament dispensation?

*"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."* Heb. 4:2. The persons here referred to by "them" are the Israelites when on their journey from Egypt to the promised land, as will be seen by the Scripture connection. Paul says the gospel was preached unto us *as well* as unto them, putting "them" ahead, and letting "us" have the gospel afterward.



## 4. Why did Moses give up the riches of Egypt?

"*Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.*"  
Heb. 11:26. People in that age, even as now, were influenced by the riches of Christ to give up the world.

## 5. Whence came the spiritual meat and drink of the Israelites while in the wilderness?

"And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."  
1 Cor. 10:2-4.

## 6. What was the chief corner-stone of the faith of both apostles and prophets?

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone.*" Eph. 2:20.

## 7. What part of the Scriptures did Philip hear a certain eunuch reading?

"And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him *read the prophet Esaias*, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?" Acts 8:30.

## 8. When asked if he understood what he was reading, what reply did the eunuch make?

"And he said, *How can I, except some man should guide me?* And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." Verse 31.

## 9. What did Philip then do?

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began *at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*" Verse 35.

NOTE. — Notwithstanding the clearness with which we see Christ referred to in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, the Jews would not admit his claims to the Messiahship. It is a truthful remark, that "the New Testament was hid in the Old, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New." By searching both Testaments together, we may become enlightened regarding the plan of salvation; for without the Old Testament, the claims of Christ to the Messiahship cannot be substantiated. The New Testament merely gives his history and teachings, showing him to be a pure and holy character; but if the Old Testament had not before predicted what the Messiah would be and do, there would have been no standard by which to decide whether or not the personage who then appeared was he. How necessary, then, that we love and study *all* the Bible! If we do not, we, like the Jews, may lose sight of some of the most important points contained in the New Testament itself.

## 10. What are the Scriptures able to do?

"Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are *able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 3:15.

## 11. What was said of the Bereans because they searched the Scriptures daily?

"*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.

## 12. By what is man to live?

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" Matt. 4:4. If man is to *live* by the word of God, he certainly ought to use it daily, as *daily* nourishment is needed to keep him alive.

## 13. How greatly has God magnified his word?

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth; *for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*" Ps. 138:2. We ought, then, to treat the word of God with the profoundest reverence, and search its pages daily, that we may continually learn more of God.

STUDY it carefully,  
Think of it prayerfully,  
Deep in thy heart let its pure precepts dwell.  
Slight not its history  
Ponder its mystery,  
None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.

Accept the glad tidings,  
The warnings and chidings,  
Found in this volume of heavenly lore;  
With faith that's unfailing  
And love all-prevailing,  
Trust in its promise of life evermore.

With fervent devotion  
And thankful emotion,  
Hear the blest welcome, respond to its call;  
Life's purest oblation,  
The heart's adoration,  
Give to the Saviour, who died for us all.

May this message of love  
From the Tribune above,  
To all nations and kindreds be given,  
Till the ransomed shall raise  
Joyous anthems of praise —  
Hallelujah! on earth and in heaven.