

# Did Jesus warn His disciples that Scripture was CORRUPTED?

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## **Four: Did Jesus indicate a POSITIVE view about Scripture?**

Okay, our **first approach** surfaced several **historical** references by Jesus—as true and trustworthy—which entails that those could not have been authored by the ‘father of lies’.

[We should note here that Jesus also did NOT point to historical reports in the OT and say something like ‘these are not true – but are satanic’. But it would likely seem odd to us if he had done something like this—but it might have been VERY important **IF** He had intended to teach that Scripture was corrupt.]

Okay, so now we take **the second approach**:

We can look for specific mentions of ‘Scripture’ and ‘it is written’ and similar phrases indicating the Hebrew Bible **to see what He communicates about the Scripture in those mentions.**

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## Jesus' and the Gospels' Statements about the Hebrew Bible

When we search the NT for all words which MIGHT COULD refer to or imply a reference to the Hebrew bible\*, we come up with these many verses to examine:

- 900 total hits, occurring in 731 verses.
- Of these verses, 306 use the terms for something OTHER THAN the HB, leaving 425.
- Of these 425, there are 162 references in the 4 gospels.
- Of the 162 references, our Lord spoke 100 of those and the gospel authors gave 40 (including references to interaction partners).

The most comprehensive term was “**Scripture(s)**” which included the 3 divisions of the Hebrew bible (from Luke 24):

“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the **Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms** must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the **Scriptures**, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

\*book, commandment(s), fulfill/fulfilled, Law, (Moses, David, Isaiah, Psalms/Psalmist), prophet(s), prophesy/prophesies/ prophesied, read, scripture(s), “Word of ...”, written

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## Gospel references to 'Scripture(s)' cite from all 3 divisions (1)

Gospel Location	Verse	OT Area	OT reference
Mark 12:24; Matt 22.29	Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?"	Law	Exodus 3
John 19:36	For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."	Law	Exodus 12.46; Num 9:12
Luke 4:21	And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."	Prophets	Isaiah 6.1f
Luke 22:37	For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."	Prophets	Isaiah 53.12
John 7:38	Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "	Prophets	Jer 2.13; 17:18
John 7:42	Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"	Prophets	Micah 5.2
John 19:37	And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."	Prophets	Zech 12.10

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## Gospel references to 'Scripture(s)' cite from all 3 divisions (2)

Gospel Location	Verse	OT Area	OT reference
John 2:22	When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.	Psalms	Psalms 16.10?
John 20:9	for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.	Psalms	Psalms 16.10?
John 19:24	so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things,	Psalms	Psalms 22.18
John 13:18	I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'	Psalms	Psalms 41.9
John 19:28	After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."	Psalms	Psalms 69.21
John 10:35	If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—	Psalms	Psalms 82.6
Mark 12:10; Matthew 21.42	Have you not read this Scripture: " 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;	Psalms	Psalms 118.23,23

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## Gospel references to 'Law' cite also from the Psalms and Prophets:

Gospel Location	Verse	OT Area	OT reference
Matthew 23:23	"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected <u>the weightier matters of the law</u> : justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.	Prophets	Deut 14.22 vs Micah 6.8 and Zech 7.9
John 10:34	Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your <u>Law</u> , 'I said, you are gods'?"	Psalms	Psalms 82.6
John 12:34	So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from <u>the Law</u> that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"	Psalms	Psalms 89.4; 110.4; Is 9.7; Exek 37.25
John 15:25	But the word that is <u>written in their Law</u> must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'	Psalms	Psalms 35:19 or 69:4

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## Four: Did Jesus indicate a **POSITIVE** view about Scripture?

Jesus (or a gospel writer) uses the term “scripture” or “scriptures” at least 16 times in the gospels, with some clustered about specific events (1)

### First we have two clustered about the ‘cornerstone’ passages”

(Matthew 21:42) --- Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the <b>Scriptures</b> : “ ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?	He challenges them with a specific non-legal prophetic passage in the 'scriptures'.
(Mark 12:10) --- Have you not read this <b>Scripture</b> : “ ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;	He challenges them with a specific non-legal prophetic passage called 'scripture'.

### And two clustered about the ‘resurrection’ controversy:

(Matthew 22:29) --- But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the <b>Scriptures</b> nor the power of God.	Scripture could be trusted and was a way to avoid being wrong! [para Mark 12:24]
(Mark 12:24) --- Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the <b>Scriptures</b> nor the power of God?	Scripture could be trusted and was a way to avoid being wrong! [para Matthew 22:29]

Remember, here we are looking for **POSITIVE** evidence that Jesus had the highest estimation of Scripture, to the extent He understood his life in terms of it.

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Jesus (or a gospel writer) uses the term “scripture” or “scriptures” at least 16 times in the gospels, with some clustered about specific events (2).

### Then we have two clustered about the ‘betrayal’

(John 13:18) --- I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the <b>Scripture</b> will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’	Jesus understands the betrayal by Judas to be a fulfillment of Scripture.
(John 17:12) --- While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the <b>Scripture</b> might be fulfilled.	Jesus understands the betrayal and fall of Judas to be a fulfillment of Scripture. They betrayal would refer back to 13.18, and be connected with Psalm 41.10 and 55.13-16; The actual fall and demise was understood to be in Psalm 109, cited in Acts 1.

### And two from the post-resurrection period:

(Luke 24:27) --- And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.	All the scriptures somehow witnessed to Jesus. "all the Prophets" and "all the scriptures"
(Luke 24:45) --- Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,	No limitation of scope -- the whole body of scriptures

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**Then we have four clustered about the arrest, trial, and condemnation:**

(Matthew 26:53-54) --- Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But how then should the <b>Scriptures</b> be fulfilled, that it must be so?"	He accepted the written word as a perfect description of His future, including suffering and contempt, that he should accept and embrace as the will of the Father.
(Mark 14:49) --- And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But <b>let the Scriptures be fulfilled.</b> "	Jesus will not take any actions of defense or engagement-- in order that the scriptures about Him can be fulfilled -- they are that important to Him.
(Matthew 26:56) --- But all this has taken place that the <b>Scriptures of the prophets</b> might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.	He accepted the written word as a perfect description of His future, including suffering and contempt and abandonment, that he should accept and embrace as the will of the Father.
(Luke 22:37) --- For I tell you that this <b>Scripture</b> must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."	Jesus understands his condemnation by Pilate and the Jewish religious leadership to be a fulfillment of Scripture.



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Then we have several stand-alone passages, with one being of high importance:

(Luke 4:21) --- And he began to say to them, “Today this <b>Scripture</b> has been fulfilled in your hearing.”	He read from Isaiah and then declares that passage to be an authentic prediction of His appearance.
(John 5:39) --- You search the <b>Scriptures</b> because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,	Again, monolithic reference -- they point to Jesus (not just 'some' but all)
(John 7:38) --- Whoever believes in me, as the <b>Scripture</b> has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”	This is largely a reference to the giving of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant.
(John 10:35) --- If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and <b>Scripture cannot be broken</b> —	KEY VERSE: Scripture (in this case a verse from Psalms) cannot be broken -- strong positive statement about the divine character of the Scripture. " <i>Jesus added to His argument the words, and the Scripture cannot be broken, so that no one could evade its force by saying an error was in the Scriptures.</i> " (Blum) ; [OTHER VOICE attributes most psalms to David, and says that his God was the evil YHWH, in almost all of his psalms.]

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To these 16 uses of the word(s) 'Scripture(s)', we can add the parallel passages to these which use other words indicating a written source (i.e. 'written', 'read', etc.).

1	(Matthew 4:10) --- Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! <b>For it is written</b> , " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "
2	(Matthew 4:4) --- But he answered, " <b>It is written</b> , " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "
3	(Matthew 4:7) --- Jesus said to him, " <b>Again it is written</b> , 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "
4	(Matthew 21:13) --- He said to them, " <b>It is written</b> , 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."
5	(Matthew 26:24) --- The Son of Man goes <b>as it is written of him</b> , but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."
6	(Matthew 26:31) --- Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. <b>For it is written</b> , 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'
7	(Mark 9:12) --- And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And <b>how is it written of the Son of Man</b> that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?"
8	(Mark 9:13) --- But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, <b>as it is written</b> of him."
9	(Mark 11:17) --- And he was teaching them and saying to them, " <b>Is it not written</b> , 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."
10	(Mark 14:21) --- For the Son of Man goes <b>as it is written of him</b> , but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."
11	(Mark 14:27) --- And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, <b>for it is written</b> , 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'
12	(Luke 4:4) --- And Jesus answered him, " <b>It is written</b> , 'Man shall not live by bread alone.' "
13	(Luke 4:8) --- And Jesus answered him, " <b>It is written</b> , " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "
14	(Luke 7:27) --- This is he of whom <b>it is written</b> , " 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'
15	(Luke 19:46) --- saying to them, " <b>It is written</b> , 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."
16	(Luke 20:17) --- But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this <b>that is written</b> : " 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"
17	(Luke 24:46) --- and said to them, " <b>Thus it is written</b> , that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,
18	(John 5:47 ) --- 47 But if you do not believe <b>his writings</b> , how will you believe my words?"
19	(John 6:45) --- It is <b>written in the Prophets</b> , 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—
20	(Matthew 19:4) --- He answered, "Have you <b>not read</b> that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,
21	(Matthew 21:16) --- and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; <b>have you never read</b> , " 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"
22	(Matthew 22:31) --- And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not <b>read</b> what was said to you by God:

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If this were REALLY true:

1. We would expect several/many **EXPLICIT** and **CLEAR** statements by Jesus **ascribing** specific passages and/or large chunks of the Hebrew Bible to **Satan as author**.
2. We would expect Jesus to issue SEVERAL STRONG and CLEAR statements that the **Law of Moses was illegitimate, evil, and nullified by Him**.
3. We should expect **MANY, STRONG, and CLEAR repudiations**, of major passages, stating them to be evil, false, and/or deceitful in their written form;
4. **CRITICAL:** And we should NOT expect to see **ANY positive or even ambiguous references** to Scripture 'as a whole'. All references to entire sections or groups of writings in the Hebrew bible – without a clear and immediate disclaimer – will mislead the people into believing that Jesus was endorsing that entire section – without reservation.

Unfortunately for the 2-voice belief, the data we saw was filled with positive affirmations of the Hebrew bible, in every setting and at all levels of granularity.

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On the basis of our detailed examination of the words of Jesus in the gospels, we cannot find a whisper of disagreement or disapproval of **ANYTHING** in the Hebrew Bible. **Instead, we find persistent affirmation, respect, and calls to pay closer attention to written Word of God.**

We should also expect to see the same warning/teaching statements by His students and followers, throughout the NT.