

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE SCARLET THREAD IN SCRIPTURE

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### PART 7: THE EMMAUS ROAD

#### INTRODUCTION

All Scripture points to Jesus as the Messiah. The scarlet thread is none other than God the Son incarnated to live among humanity as Jesus Christ.

Something unique occurs in Luke chapter 24. For the first and only time in history, the Creator of humanity and Author of Christianity becomes the Bible's Interpreter.

The Son of God does not merely affirm Scripture, He opens it up, and in doing so, discouraged disciples become burning witnesses.

#### CONFUSED DISCIPLES

Jesus had been crucified and the dream of the Messiah was seemingly over.

*“And how the chief priests and our rulers **delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.**” (Luke 24:20)*

Two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were sincere, grieving, and spiritually confused.

*“But **we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:** and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.” (verse 21)*

The tomb was empty and they did not know what to make of it. What did it mean?

*“Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.” (verses 22-23)*

The prophets spoke of redemption, but these two men lacked understanding.

*“For as yet they knew not the scripture, that **he must rise again from the dead.**” (John 20:9)*

It is possible to read the Bible without discernment. Anyone who does so is spiritually blind. They read plain words, but do not understand their meaning because there is a veil in the way. A veil serves to cover, separate, and/or restrict access or visibility. This particular veil is only removed by the Messiah. The apostle Paul described this condition.

*“**But their minds were blinded:** for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; **which veil is done away in Christ.** But*



*even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.” (2 Corinthians 3:14-16)*

The Old Testament remains veiled without the Messiah, but with the incarnation of God the Son, the veil is removed and its true meaning becomes clear.

## **CHRIST’S REBUKE**

Jesus emphatically stated that their confusion did not stem from lack of evidence, but from failing to believe what Bible plainly reveals about the Messiah.

*“Then he said unto them, O fools, and **slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:25-26)***

The issue was not ignorance, but their unbelief concerning the prophecies.

*“But those things, which **God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.” (Acts 3:18)***

The Son of God was clear that selective belief produces spiritual blindness. The Messiah must be seen throughout the Bible.

## **BEGINNING AT MOSES**

Then comes the turning point with the greatest Bible study ever taught.

*“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)***

Jesus begins where Scripture begins with Moses:

- ❖ The Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15)
- ❖ The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)
- ❖ The Tabernacle (Exodus 25-40)
- ❖ The High Priest (Leviticus 16)

Then He showed them the prophets:

- ❖ The suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
- ❖ The pierced One (Zechariah 12:10)
- ❖ The Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14)

Jesus had previously declared:

*“**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39)***

The Bible cannot be relegated to a collection of moral lessons. It is a unified revelation of God the Son incarnated to pay for the sins of mankind on the cross and rising from the dead three days later.

## EYES OPENED

Interestingly, the two disciples fail to recognize Jesus while He teaches. Their eyes are only opened when He breaks bread with them later in the day.

*“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And **their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.**” (Luke 24:30-31)*

Jesus wanted the two men to understand the Scripture before He allowed them to recognize Him as the risen Savior. Revelation preceded recognition as the God-man patiently explained the Old Testament and then revealed Himself.

## HEARTS THAT BURN

After Jesus vanishes, the disciples reflect upon how they felt when the Son of God patiently and lovingly explained how the Old Testament spoke about Him.

*“And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?**” (Luke 24:32)*

This was not emotional excitement; it was spiritual illumination. In much the same way, God’s message was not just something the prophet Jeremiah spoke. It filled his heart and shaped his thoughts. The message was powerful, burning within him, creating pressure that demanded release.

*“...But **his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones...**”  
(Jeremiah 20:9b)*

King David’s inner thoughts grew so intense that they became like a fire within him, forcing him to speak.

*My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue.” (Psalms 39:3)*

A zealous heart is the natural result of reading the Bible with discernment. It means that when Scripture is understood in light of Jesus Christ, it does not leave a person cold, but awakens deep love, conviction, and passion for God.

## FROM REVELATION TO MISSION

Even though it was evening, the two men immediately returned to Jerusalem to testify of their experience.

*“And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen*

*indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.” (Luke 24:33-35)*

The apostle Paul followed this same pattern of revelation producing a proclamation.

*“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that **this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ [the Messiah].” (Acts 17:2-3)***

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness leads to a natural desire to share the Gospel with others.

*“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15)*

## **THE COMMISSION**

The two disciples going to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem and met the apostles in the upper room. Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst and opened the understanding of the large group.

*“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.*

*Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.” (Luke 24:44-46)*

And then He gave them their mission:

*“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And **ye are witnesses of these things.**” (verses 47-48)*

A Christian can only proclaim Christ if he understands the Bible. This might seem self-explanatory, but it is a spiritual truth nonetheless.

## **THE SCARLET THREAD REVEALED**

On the Emmaus Road:

- ❖ Genesis was illuminated.
- ❖ The Law found fulfillment.
- ❖ The prophets gained clarity.

- ❖ The Gospels found the Messiah.
- ❖ The epistles explained Jesus.
- ❖ Revelation unveils Jesus in glory.

What we witness is the entire Bible converging on Jesus Christ as the focal point. The scarlet thread was not traced by scholars, but was revealed by the Savior Himself.

Do not read the Bible apart from the Son of God. Do not study prophecy apart from the Person of whom the prophets spoke.

What did Jesus do on the road to Emmaus? He opened the Scriptures. He revealed Himself. He lit a fire in the souls of the two men. And may it be said of us, as it was of them:

*“...He opened to us the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:32c)*

## THE GREAT QUESTION

The words of the Bible are not meant to merely inform your mind, but to react with your soul so that you bring others into the circle of faith as well.

*“And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?**” (Luke 24:32)*

Jesus is the source of the Christian faith. He leads by example and calls us to be resolute and live out our faith with perseverance.

*“**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**” (Hebrews 12:2)*

You may think that you are merely reading the Bible, but isn't it the other way around?

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**” (Hebrews 4:12)*

## CHRIST-CENTERED MIX

Read the Bible with the understanding that Jesus is part of it.

1. Do not read Genesis without the Messiah.
2. Do not study the Mosaic law without the Lamb.
3. Do not admire the prophets without believing them.
4. Do not preach the four Gospels without the cross.
5. Do not try to live out the epistles without realizing it is Christ who lives in you.

6. Do not fear the Book of Revelation because the Lamb reigns.

The scarlet thread is not hidden. It is revealed. It is finished. It is crowned. And His name is Jesus Christ.