

CHRIST

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Passage: Luke 17:1-15
Lesson: A Tale of Two Cities

Bereans 28 Sep 2025



A Tale of Two Cities

Acts 17:1-15

Theme: Even in the face of fierce resistance, the power of the Biblical gospel continues to radically transform lives.

I. The OT Scriptures Preached in Thessalonica. (1-3)



I. The OT Scriptures Preached in Thessalonica. (1-3)

A. Paul's Foundational Authority: The OT Scriptures (2a)

Psalms 119:89

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Philippians 3:4b-6

**^{4b} If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:
⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.**

I. The OT Scriptures Preached in Thessalonica. (1-3)

A. Paul's Foundational Authority: The OT Scriptures (2a)

B. Paul's Foundational Practice: Reasoning (2b)

Acts 18:4...when Paul was in Corinth...

And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:19...when Paul was in Ephesus...

Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

1 Peter 3:13-15

¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

I. The OT Scriptures Preached in Thessalonica. (1-3)

A. Paul's Foundational Authority: The OT Scriptures (2a)

B. Paul's Foundational Practice: Reasoning (2b)

C. Paul's Foundational Method: Explaining & Preaching (3)

Statistical Chance of Fulfilling 8 Messianic Prophecies.

1 in 10¹⁷

1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000

Statistical Chance of Fulfilling 8 Messianic Prophecies.



8 Prophecies 1 *in* 10^{17}

16 Prophecies 1 *in* 10^{45}

48 Prophecies 1 *in* 10^{157}

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

2 Timothy 2:24-25

²⁴ The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

II. The Reactions to the OT Scriptures Preached. (4-9)

A. Many Believed (4)

B. Some Did Not Believe (5-9)

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

III. The OT Scriptures Preached in Berea. (10-12)

A. Many Believed

“The Bereans laid aside their pride to embrace the gospel, fulfilling James 1:10’s call to ‘rejoice in humility’”

John Calvin

*Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently,
as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the
knowledge of the same.*

Jonathan Edwards

**"I've decided to make a habit of studying the Bible regularly and
often, so I can clearly see myself growing in understanding and
application."**

IV. The Opposition to the OT Scriptures Preached. (13-15)

Application/Implications

- **Application: We're called to share the gospel even when it's unpopular or risky, trusting God with the outcome.**

2 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Application/Implications

- **Application: Our faith and teaching must be rooted in Scripture, not personal opinion or tradition.**

Isaiah 55:8-11

⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Application/Implications

- **Application: We should cultivate discernment and spiritual hunger, testing all teaching against the Word of God.**

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.