

The Ascension of Our Lord – 2023

Thursday, 5/18 at 7:00



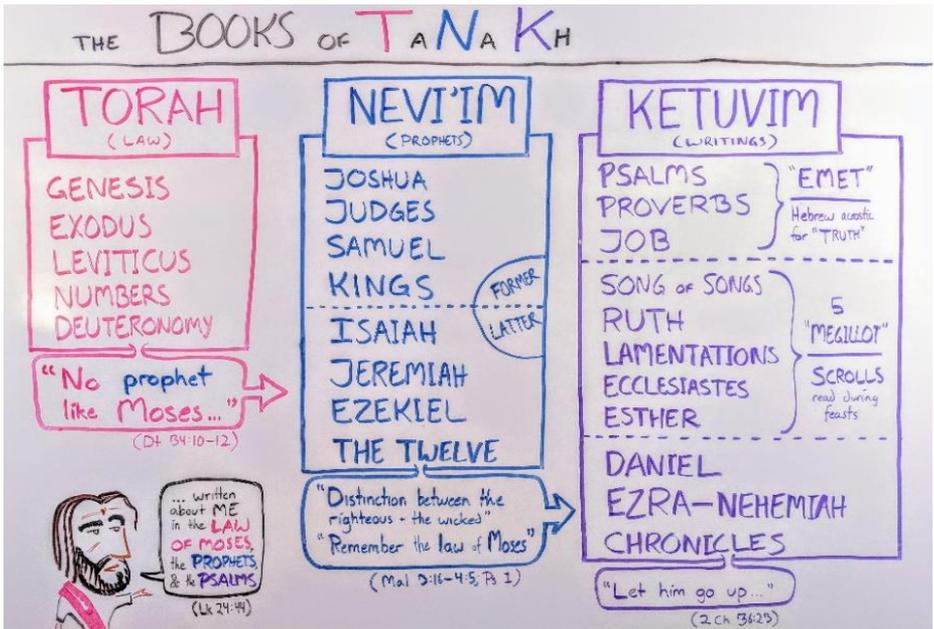
Text: Luke 24:44-51 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: The Lord Jesus Christ is now ☞risen from the dead and ☞reigning over all things for our temporal and eternal benefit!

In this sermon we will learn about ♣Bible basics, ♣Jesus' final words, ♣Jesus' ascension, and ♣our mission as Christians.

- Bible Basics:** The Bible is God's word of saving truth:
  - The Old Testament explains ♣our origin, ♣the fall into sin, and ♣God's promise to save us.
  - The New Testament shows us ♣who Jesus is, ♣what He did, and ♣why He is the one way to heaven.
- Jesus' Final Words:** <sup>44</sup> ... [Jesus] said to [His followers], "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

- a. During Jesus' time on earth: The NT had not yet been written, so *the Scriptures* were the **OT Scriptures**! The OT pointed ahead to the work Jesus would do to take away the sin of the world!
- b. Law, Prophets, Psalms: That is *one way* of dividing the OT into three parts. The **HEBREW OT** has the same information as **OUR OT**, but some of the books ♦*have different names* and ♦*are laid out in a different order*. The order of the **Law, Prophets, and Psalms** fits the order of the **Hebrew OT**. Study this diagram:<sup>1</sup>



- c. A great blessing:<sup>45</sup> **Then** [the Bible records that] **[Jesus] opened [the] minds [of His followers] to understand the Scriptures...** // Jesus could have said:
- I am the promised descendant of Eve, *the Messiah*.
  - When the time was right, *I put on human flesh, then I lived a sinless life as your perfect substitute*.

<sup>1</sup> Watch this 10-minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85PollZasj8>

- iii. While I was nailed to a cross, *I received all sins and God's wrath, then I laid down my life.*
  - iv. On the third day, *my Father raised me back to life.*
  - v. Now, on this 40<sup>th</sup> day, *I will be carried into heaven.*
  - vi. Before I go, *let me tell you about your mission.*
- d. Repentance unto forgiveness: <sup>46</sup> **and [Jesus] said to them, “Thus it [has been] written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance [unto] forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”** // God planned, and then Jesus accomplished the plan to provide forgiveness for all people. Now, all people are being invited to:
- i. Repent: To ♦acknowledge their sins, ♦understand what their sins deserve, ♦see their helplessness to save themselves, and ♦be sorry for their sins.
  - ii. Believe: To trust in Jesus alone as their Savior from ♦sin, ♦death, and ♦eternal punishment.
- e. You know what you saw: <sup>48</sup> **“You are witnesses of these things.”** // Jesus’ apostles ♦heard His teachings and ♦saw His miracles. They saw Him dead and alive again! We haven’t seen, *but by the HS we believe!*
- f. I will give you power: <sup>49</sup> **“And behold, I [send] the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from high.”** // Ten days after Jesus ascended was ♦50 days after Easter and ♦the fourth spring festival of Pentecost.<sup>2</sup> On that day *Jesus poured out the HS upon His followers!*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://blc7500.com/Sermons/4096/Details>

3. **Jesus' Ascension:** <sup>50</sup> And [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. // Jesus is no longer visible on earth, *but now He is in heaven and ruling over all things.* At the appointed time (Acts 17:31), *He will return like a thief in the night* (1Th 5:2).
4. **Our Mission as Christians:**
- a. Since the HS has enabled us to ▶ understand God's word, ▶ be sorry for our sins, and ▶ embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord, we also have the HS living in us to **guide us** and **power us**.
  - b. Since we are alive in Christ, we have a concern about those who do not yet know Him. Therefore, let us:
    - i. Be open to the HS equipping us by ▶ studying, ▶ memorizing, and ▶ living the Bible.
    - ii. Pray for opportunities to point others to Jesus.
    - iii. Seize the opportunities that arise.

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, *TYSM for saving us and ruling over all things for the good of all believers.* With gladness and awe, make us open and obedient to your will for our lives!

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230