People of the Word SS Class
Dr. Robert C. Newman
9 July 2000

Scripture in the Early Church

AScripture@ is the traditional term in English (borrowed from a Latin term *scriptura* meaning Awhat is written@) to translate the Greek *graphai* and Hebrew *katuvim* (both also meaning Awhat is written@) used to refer to the sacred writings given by God through prophets to the Jewish people before the time of Christ and to the early church through Jesus= specially chosen apostles.

The Old Testament is used to bring the message of Jesus to Jews and to AGodfearers@ (non-Jews who worshiped with the Jews):

Peter=s speech to the crowds at the Jewish feast of Pentecost (Weeks) - Acts 2:14-39
cites Joel 2:28-32; Psalm 16:8-11; Psalm 110:1
Stephen=s speech to the Jewish supreme court (Sanhedrin) - Acts 7:2-53
recites Israel=s history from OT, quoting Genesis 12:1; 15:13-14; Exodus 2:14; 3:6; 3:5-10; Deuteronomy 18:15; Exodus 32:1; Amos 5:25-27; Isaiah 66:1-2
Philip=s conversation with the Ethiopian official - Acts 8:26-40
explains Isaiah 53
Paul=s speech in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia - Acts 13:16-41
recites Israel=s history; cites Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 55:3; Psalm 16:10; Habakkuk 1:5
Paul=s speech to the leaders of the Jewish community at Rome - Acts 28:17-28
cites Isaiah 6:9-10

The Old Testament is used as a record of God=s activity in previous centuries, as a revelation of God=s character and of human nature, and a guide for how believers ought to live:

Peter=s argument for choosing a successor to Judas - Acts 1:15-22
cites Psalm 69:25; 109:8
The believers= prayer in the face of persecution - Acts 4:23-30
cites Psalm 2:1-2
James= argument at the council of Jerusalem for accepting Gentiles - Acts 15:13-21
cites Amos 9:11-12
Paul=s argument that no one is good enough to be acceptable to God - Romans 3:9-20
cites Psalm 14:1-3 (=53:1-3); 5:9; 140:3; 10:7; Isaiah 59:7-8; Psalm 36:1
Paul=s argument that sinners are given forgiveness rather than earning it - Romans 4:1-8
cites example of Abraham, Genesis 15:6, 22 and of David, Psalm 32:1-2
Paul=s response to concern that Jews rejected their Messiah - Romans 9-11
cites about 30 passages from OT, mostly from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 1 Kings,

http://www.newmanlib.ibri.org/TalkOutlines/AbstractsTopically.htm

Psalms, Isaiah, Hosea

The New Testament was prepared to record the testimony of the apostles who would not be living much longer:

[1]Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, [2] just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. [3] Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, [4] so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. *Luke 1:1-4*

[30] Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. [31] But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. *John 20:30-31*

[22] Jesus answered, >>If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.@ [23] Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, >>If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?@ [24] This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. *John 21:22-24*

[3] As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer [4] nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God=s workCwhich is by faith. [5] The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. [6] Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. [7] They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. *1 Tim 1:3-7*

[14] Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, [15] if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God=s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. *1 Tim 3:14-15*

[12] So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. [13] I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, [14] because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. [15] And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. *1 Pet 1:12-15*

[7] Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. [8] Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. [9] Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. [10] If anyone comes to you and does not bring this

teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. [11] Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work. *2 John 7-11*