JESUS
ON EVERY PAGE

10 SIMPLE WAYS
to SEEK and FIND CHRIST
in the OLD TESTAMENT

DAVID MURRAY
PRAISE FOR JESUS ON EVERY PAGE

“With deceptive ease Dr. David Murray brings his readers on to the Road to Emmaus for a few hours of conversation about Jesus and the Old Testament. With an enviable grace and simplicity he teaches us how to read the Old Testament as Christians. Jesus on Every Page is a book on Christ-centered biblical interpretation that doesn’t involve complex grammatical, rhetorical, or hermeneutical complexities that cause the ordinary Christian (and pastor for that matter) to glaze over and despair. Rather, as a most agreeable companion, Professor Murray walks alongside us and points out the most important landmarks we need to notice if we are to make our way through the Old Testament for ourselves and see how it points to Christ. Far from talking down to us from the lofty heights of technical Old Testament scholarship (although he is familiar with them), he tells us that he once sat where most of us sit. But then, as a quality teacher, he is able to help us learn what he himself has so obviously done. Here, then, is an ideal primer for beginners, a great refresher course for anyone who has got lost in the woods attempting to read Scripture the Emmaus Road way, and a wonderful reminder to us all that it was Jesus himself who taught us that he is at the heart of the entire Bible, and not just the righthand side of it!”

—Sinclair B. Ferguson, Redeemer Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas.

“This is not a small book, it is a game-changer. I read it with a notepad in one hand and at times tears on every page. If you think that we have to wait until that night in Bethlehem to meet Jesus face-to-face, this profound work shows that from the first chapter of Genesis to the final notes of John’s Revelation, Jesus is on every page of God’s love story. This is a book I will read over and over. I highly recommend it!”

—Sheila Walsh, singer, best-selling author, speaker with Women of Faith Conferences

“Certainly one of the most helpful and most needed new books that I have seen for a long while. True faith in Christ as revealed in the Old Testament needs to be grounded on right principles of interpretation. Whenever those principles are confused, faith in large portions of Scripture will also be confused. This book is more than a devotional read. It leads us to understand more accurately why Jesus could say of the scriptures, ‘they testify of me’. What could be more important?”

—Iain H. Murray, pastor, author, and editorial director of the Banner of Truth Publishers
“Far too much Old Testament preaching is moralism—pure and simple. Moralism is an evil, wicked thing that suggests that with a little effort, and some help from the Spirit, we can improve our lot. Thus hundreds of ‘killer-be’ sermons (‘Be like x or y’) have urged Christians to ethical response without gospel foundations, encouraging guilt eradication by more urgent effort on our part. Failing to see the grand, ‘eye in the sky’ redemptive story of Scripture, such myopic views focus instead on self—self-effort, self-importance, self-justification. And Christians are rightly crying ‘foul’ to this pernicious trajectory, consigning to the dustbin of error where it belongs and replacing it with a Christ-centered, gospel-focused understanding of the Old Testament. There have been strident voices urging us to see Christ in the Old Testament in recent years—among them Greidanus, Goldsworthy, Clowney, and Chapell. Now comes David Murray’s Jesus on Every Page—a bang-on target, concise summary of this urgently needed, hermeneutical adjustment. I cannot recommend it highly enough.”

—Derek W. H. Thomas, Professor of Systematic Theology, RTS Atlanta; Minister of Preaching and Teaching, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina

“There’s no one I’d rather have serve as my guide for a journey down the Emmaus road than David Murray. Jesus on Every Page provides solid, understandable categories and tools for retraining ourselves on how to read and understand the Old Testament. Without complicated theological jargon, this book helps readers to see that Jesus, in his person and work, is the answer to all of the Old Testament’s lingering questions, the fulfillment of all of its unfulfilled promises, and the resolution to all of its unresolved tensions.”

—Nancy Guthrie, author of the Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament Bible study series

“There could scarcely be a more worthy pursuit than seeking to learn of Jesus in the pages of Scripture. And—even allowing for the many differences in approach and interpretation—it would be difficult indeed to find a more accessible, concise, practically helpful, warm-hearted guide than David Murray’s Jesus On Every Page.”

—Fred G. Zaspel, Reformed Baptist Church, Franconia, Pennsylvania; Calvary Baptist Seminary, Lansdale, Pennsylvania

“In this book, seminary professor David Murray takes us on a fascinating journey to find the right kind of help in interpreting the Old Testament Christologically. Without sending us down any dubious interpretative avenues, David shows us not only that Jesus is on every page of the Old Testament, but in every picture, poem, historical fact, and prophetic
utterance. His aim throughout is to remind New Testament Christians that they are whole Bible believers, and to give them a key to reading the Old Testament biblically. The key to his own book is simple enough: it is that the gospel interprets the Old Testament. As he unpacks this theme, David shows us that Jesus does not simply emerge at the end of the historical process we call the Old Testament, but was present from the outset as the Savior of sinners. This is a safe guide to a controversial topic, and will be of help both to theology students and serious Bible readers. I wish it a wide circulation, if only because it will enable a new generation of believers, many of whom don’t really know how to handle the first half of the Bible, to read and preach the Old Testament just as its Author intended.”
—Dr. Iain D. Campbell, author, adjunct professor at Westminster Seminary, and pastor of Point Free Church of Scotland

“Much has been written for seminary students and pastors on interpreting all of Scripture with a view to Christ. Unfortunately, very little has been written with the average Christian in mind. In Jesus on Every Page, David Murray sets out to correct this deficiency by sharing his own journey of discovery and providing ten simple ways to see Christ in the Old Testament. No longer is the person in the pew left to wonder how the preacher got to Jesus from that text in Leviticus about dietary restrictions; she will be able to make the connections herself. I hope you will read Jesus on Every Page and embark on your own ‘Emmaus road’ and discover that the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments, tells the story of Jesus.”
—Juan Sanchez, preaching pastor, Highpointe Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

“Every wise mountaineer, unless he is an expert, welcomes whatever help he can get to further his endeavor to reach the summit. Similarly, the Christian, as he daily studies his Bible, strives in his reading to get to know Christ more perfectly. Though he realizes that the summit of perfection will only be reached in heaven at last, he welcomes the helping hand of those ahead of him. Dr. David Murray has here given us all a welcome lift so that we might see Jesus much more clearly in the Old Testament. It cannot but be a sweet and an enlightening experience to be taught to know Jesus more perfectly.”
—Maurice Roberts, author, pastor in the Free Church of Scotland

“With contagious delight, David Murray not only opens up the Old Testament beautifully, he draws you to marvel at the One it is all about. This is a moving, rich book that can hardly fail to help readers enjoy Jesus more in his Word.”
—Michael Reeves, head of theology, Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship; author of Delighting in the Trinity
“Jesus is indeed on every page, and Murray’s book offers a practical, accessible, and engaging introduction to the Old Testament. The book not only helps Bible students to understand the excitement of the Old Testament’s testimony to Christ, but provides a host of suggestions and paths by which readers can begin to experience for themselves the opening of depths in the Old Testament. This book shows the glory of Christ, and is recommended especially for anyone previously intimidated by the Old Testament.”

—Vern S. Poythress, PhD, ThD, professor of New Testament Interpretation, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“If you heard that archeologists had discovered a genuine book with pictures of Jesus’ life, a diary of his thoughts, and further explanation of his ministry, would you not yearn to have that book in your hands? If you have the Old Testament, you do! With the enthusiasm of personal discovery and the heart of a loving pastor, David Murray explains carefully and plainly that Jesus indeed can be seen, heard, and experienced on every page of the Old Testament.”

—Barry York, pastor and professor of Practical Theology, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary

“With a multitude of hermeneutical challenges facing the church in the twenty-first century, the establishment and defense of Christological principles of biblical interpretation is not least among those of foremost importance. Turning to the teaching of Christ and the Apostles, David Murray carefully explains the exegetical and biblical-theological rational for a Christological interpretation of the Old Testament. Murray takes the reader into the world of redemptive history to show how Christ is the epicenter of all Old Testament revelation—so that you, too, will see Jesus on Every Page.”

—Nick Batzig, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Richmond Hill, Georgia

“David Murray’s Jesus on Every Page is the missing piece in most approaches to hermeneutics. A piece so central and important that without it the picture Scripture paints is incomplete and marred. Dr. Murray guides the reader safely through the Old Testament pointing to the Son of God who is there in person and promise. I can’t imagine a clearer or more helpful book that shows us what Jesus meant when he said the Law, the Prophets, and Psalms all speak of his person and work.”

—Joe Thorn, author of Note to Self: The Discipline of Preaching to Yourself; lead pastor, Redeemer Fellowship, St. Charles, Illinois
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10 SIMPLE WAYS to SEEK and FIND CHRIST in the OLD TESTAMENT

DAVID MURRAY

Thomas Nelson
Since 1798

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# CONTENTS

**Preface**  
1

## Part 1: My Road to Emmaus

| CHAPTER 1 | Where Did the Old Testament Go? | 5 |
| CHAPTER 2 | What’s the Old Testament All About? | 9 |
| CHAPTER 3 | Jesus’ Answer | 14 |
| CHAPTER 4 | Peter’s Answer | 19 |
| CHAPTER 5 | Paul’s Answer | 25 |
| CHAPTER 6 | John’s Answer | 36 |

## Part 2: Spiritual Heartburn

| CHAPTER 7 | Christ’s Planet: Discovering Jesus in the Creation | 43 |
| CHAPTER 8 | Christ’s People: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Characters | 54 |
| CHAPTER 9 | Christ’s Presence: Discovering Jesus in His Old Testament Appearances | 73 |
| CHAPTER 10 | Christ’s Precepts: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Law | 86 |
| CHAPTER 11 | Christ’s Past: Discovering Jesus in Old Testament History | 99 |
| CHAPTER 12 | Christ’s Prophets: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Prophets | 115 |
| CHAPTER 13 | Christ’s Pictures: Discovering Jesus in the Old Testament Types | 136 |
Jesus Christ is the towering figure of world history. As such, He casts a bright shadow not only forward over all post-Bethlehem history but also backward over all Old Testament history that led up to Him. He is the person to whom and from whom all history flows. His luminous shadow brightens both BC and AD, but it is especially the BC years we wish to explore in this book.

*Jesus on Every Page* is an accessible guide to the increasingly popular subject of Jesus in the Old Testament. Although much has been written to help pastors with preaching Jesus from the Old Testament, there is little that provides sound principles and practical help for the average Christian who wants to explore this important way of knowing Jesus through His Word.

As well as writing something accessible and useful to the wider church, I wanted to provide a resource that would cover a number of methods of knowing Jesus in the Old Testament. As you will see from the endnotes, many excellent books deal with
one or two ways of interpreting the Old Testament with Jesus in view. Some are strong on typology, others emphasize narrative, while still others focus on the prophets or the Old Testament appearances of Christ. In *Jesus on Every Page* I’ve tried to gather in one place ten different ways of discovering and enjoying Jesus in the Old Testament.

Another thing I noticed was that many books did not help the reader start to do his or her own Christ-centered interpretation. There was a focus on either the theory or the end product, for example, a sermon. But the practical steps that would help a reader get from a text or chapter to Jesus were often missing. I’ve therefore tried to provide templates and step-by-step guides at various points to help the reader start practicing this wonderful way of enjoying Jesus in His Word.

In the first part of the book, I tell the story of my own Emmaus road—how the Lord gradually taught me to see more and more of Jesus in the Old Testament. I wanted to share not only the result of what the Lord has taught me but also how He patiently led me there. Jesus found me as He found His disciples: “foolish . . . and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken.” However, He graciously expounded to me in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself, until eventually my heart burned within me as He opened the Scriptures to me.

I continue to thread my story through the rest of the book, but part 2 focuses more on ten simple methods to use in seeking and finding Jesus in the Old Testament. I hope that by combining my testimony to Jesus’ work in my own life with my understanding of His Word, you will also experience a strangely enjoyable spiritual heartburn as together we discover and enjoy *Jesus on Every Page*.2
PART 1

MY ROAD TO EMMAUS
WHERE DID THE OLD TESTAMENT GO?

You’ll find our text this morning in the Old Testament . . .”

I know this is a rare announcement today, but when you heard it last, what did you think?

Oh no! Not another historical lecture.
We’re going to get a whipping with the law today.
Why? I came to church to hear about Jesus.
What do Israel and Babylon have to do with my family struggles?
Or maybe you didn’t just think it. You said it or e-mailed it to the pastor afterward. And pastors are feeling the pressure. Some surveys put the ratio of Old Testament to New Testament sermons at 1 to 10. Some would like it nearer 0 to 10.

But might this imbalance in the spiritual diet of most Christians explain many of the spiritual problems in the modern church and in modern Christians? Or as theologian Gleason Archer put it: “How can Christian pastors hope to feed their flock
on a well-balanced spiritual diet if they completely neglect the 39 books of Holy Scripture on which Jesus and all the New Testament authors received their own spiritual nourishment?”

**Change of Diet**

It wasn’t always like this. The church used to have a much more balanced diet. So how did we get here? Consider these reasons:

*Liberalism.* The sustained attack on the Old Testament by liberal scholars has shaken many Christians’ confidence in this part of the Bible.

*Ignorance.* It is almost impossible to understand large parts of the Old Testament without knowledge of the historical context and geographical setting. This knowledge was once widespread, but many Christians now know little or nothing of biblical history.

*Irrelevance.* Some look at the historical and geographical details of the Old Testament and wonder, what possible relevance can events and places from thousands of years ago have for me? And anyway, the New Testament teaches that many Old Testament practices have stopped. So, why study them?

*Dispensationalism.* Although unintended, the dispensational division of Scripture into different eras tends to relegate the Old Testament to a minor role in the life of the church and of the individual Christian.

*Bad examples.* Bad examples of Old Testament preaching and teaching are easy to find and even easier to ridicule. The malpractice of some, however, should not lead to the nonpractice of others.

*Laziness.* Studying the Old Testament is often more intellectually demanding than studying the New Testament. The familiar
paths of the Gospels seem much more inviting than Leviticus, 2 Chronicles, or Nahum.

*Christ-less preaching.* Perhaps the greatest reason for so little interest in the Old Testament is that there has been so much Christ-less teaching from the Old Testament. At a popular level, Old Testament preaching has often degenerated into mere moralism, for example, “ten lessons from the life of Moses.” At an academic level, there seems to be a determination to downplay and even remove any possibility of Christ-centeredness in the Old Testament. Little surprise that many turn away from the Old Testament and toward the New in order to find and enjoy Jesus.

*Official, not personal.* Although in recent years some preachers and teachers have worked harder at showing the Son of God’s presence and work in the Old Testament, their efforts have often failed to satisfy because of the technically correct decision to use the official title *Christ* rather than the personal name *Jesus* in their Old Testament sermons and writings.

*Jesus* means “God saves,” and it is the personal name given to the Son of God when He was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

*Christ* means “anointed” or “sent and equipped by God,” and it is the English translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*. It’s less personal—more of an official title or role like *president*—and is usually used when speaking of the Son of God prior to His earthly life.

One of my passions is to help Christians know Jesus more personally and intimately, so I decided to use *Jesus* as much as possible in this book. It not only brings Him closer to us than the official title; it reminds us that the Christ of the Old Testament is the same person as the Jesus of the New Testament.
When I use *Jesus* to speak of the Son of God’s work in the Old Testament, I’m not saying that the man who was later born as Jesus was doing the work. I’m saying that the same person who was born as Jesus two thousand years ago was also at work in the Old Testament before then.

**How Do We Get the Old Testament Back?**

These are powerful and discouraging trends. How can we fight and even reverse them? We must combat liberal theology by treating the Old Testament as the inspired Word of God. We must patiently study biblical history and geography and learn how to profitably connect the past to the present. We must avoid the weaknesses of dispensationalism. We must identify and avoid bad practices, as well as search for, value, and learn from good preaching and teaching models. And we must be willing to put in the hours, the sweat, the toil, and the tears as we break up the long-untilled ground of the Old Testament. Above all, despite the prevalence of Christ-less moralism and the pressures of Christ-less academia, we must strive to find and enjoy Jesus in the Old Testament. That alone makes Old Testament study profitable and enjoyable. We can also minimize the disconnect caused by the overuse of *Christ* and bring Jesus nearer by using His personal name more than His official title.

It looks like a long and hard way back. Is it worth the effort? I believe it is. A few years ago I started to walk this difficult path; I learned a lot of valuable lessons along the way, and I’d like to share them with you. Let me begin by telling you about my own road to Emmaus.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Murray was a pastor in Scotland for twelve years before crossing “the pond” in 2007 to take up his present position as Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. He is the author of Christians Get Depressed Too and How Sermons Work. He is also president of HeadHeartHand Media, a small Christian film company that has produced two DVDs: God’s Technology and CrossReference: The Angel of the Lord.

David is married to Shona and they have five children. They all love skiing, fishing, and camping around beautiful Lake Michigan.

He blogs at HeadHeartHand.org and you can follow him on Twitter @DavidPMurray.