

# John 5:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

## Analysis

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'But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?' The final verse creates devastating logic: if they don't believe Moses' writings (which they claim to follow), how will they believe Jesus? Scripture rejection leads to Christ rejection. Inability to receive written revelation precludes receiving living revelation. Those who deny the truth of Scripture have no foundation for receiving Christ.

## Historical Context

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This verse connects Old Testament authority with Christ's authority. To reject Moses is to reject the foundation on which Jesus built. The religious leaders' treatment of Scripture—adding traditions, missing its Christ-centered purpose—explained their treatment of Jesus. Scripture and Christ stand together.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does reception of Scripture relate to reception of Christ?

2. What does this verse teach about the authority and purpose of the Old Testament?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ	δὲ	τοῖς	ἐκείνου	γράμμασιν	οὐ	πιστεύετε	πῶς
<b>If</b>	<b>however</b>	G3588	<b>his</b>	<b>writings</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>you believe</b>	<b>how</b>
G1487	G1161		G1565	G1121	G3756	G4100	G4459
τοῖς	ἐμοῖς	ῥήμασιν	πιστεύσετε				
G3588	<b>My</b>	<b>words</b>	<b>will you believe</b>				
	G1699	G4487	G4100				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 16:31** (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

**Luke 16:29** (Parallel theme): Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.