

find that Jesus Christ refers specifically to the Pentateuch as from Moses. In Matthew 8:4 He says, "Offer the gift that Moses commands." In Matthew 19 and Mark 10 He says, "Moses, because of the hardness of your heart, suffered you to put away your wives." In Mark 7 He said, "Moses said, honour thy father and thy mother." He speaks of "the book of Moses" in Mark 12:26 and in Luke 20:37. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Christ represents Abraham as saying, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets..." Luke 24 says, "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses concerning me."

There are many references by the Lord Jesus Christ to statements in the Pentateuch as "what Moses said," or to the whole Pentateuch as "the law of Moses." This was the common view that people held at the time. All the Jews considered that this was the law of Moses. Josephus referred to it as "the five books of Moses," and very clearly includes Genesis with the rest, as written by Moses. If Jesus knew that it was untrue and that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, it was not necessarily His duty to correct their ideas on the subject. If He had set out to correct all the false ideas in the world in our day, it would have taken all His time doing so and He would have had no time to give us any positive presentation of the great spiritual matters He wished to bring to our attention. In those days the knowledge of the world that the people had was far less than the knowledge we have today. Consequently their erroneous ideas of history and of science are far greater, and if Jesus had set out to correct all the false ideas people had then, it would have been necessary for Him to have spent five times as long as He did just to correct false ideas of history and science. So if Jesus did not say that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, that would not prove that the Jews were certainly right in considering that He did. But He did not have to refer to it in this way. He could have said, "it is written in the law." He could have said, "the law of God." He could have referred to the book in any number of ways. He did not need to say, "If they believe not Moses." He did not need to say, "all things written in the law of Moses concerning" Him. He refers to it a number of times in connection with Moses where there was no necessity of His doing so and consequently, we have to say either that Moses wrote it or that Jesus Christ did not know what He was talking about.