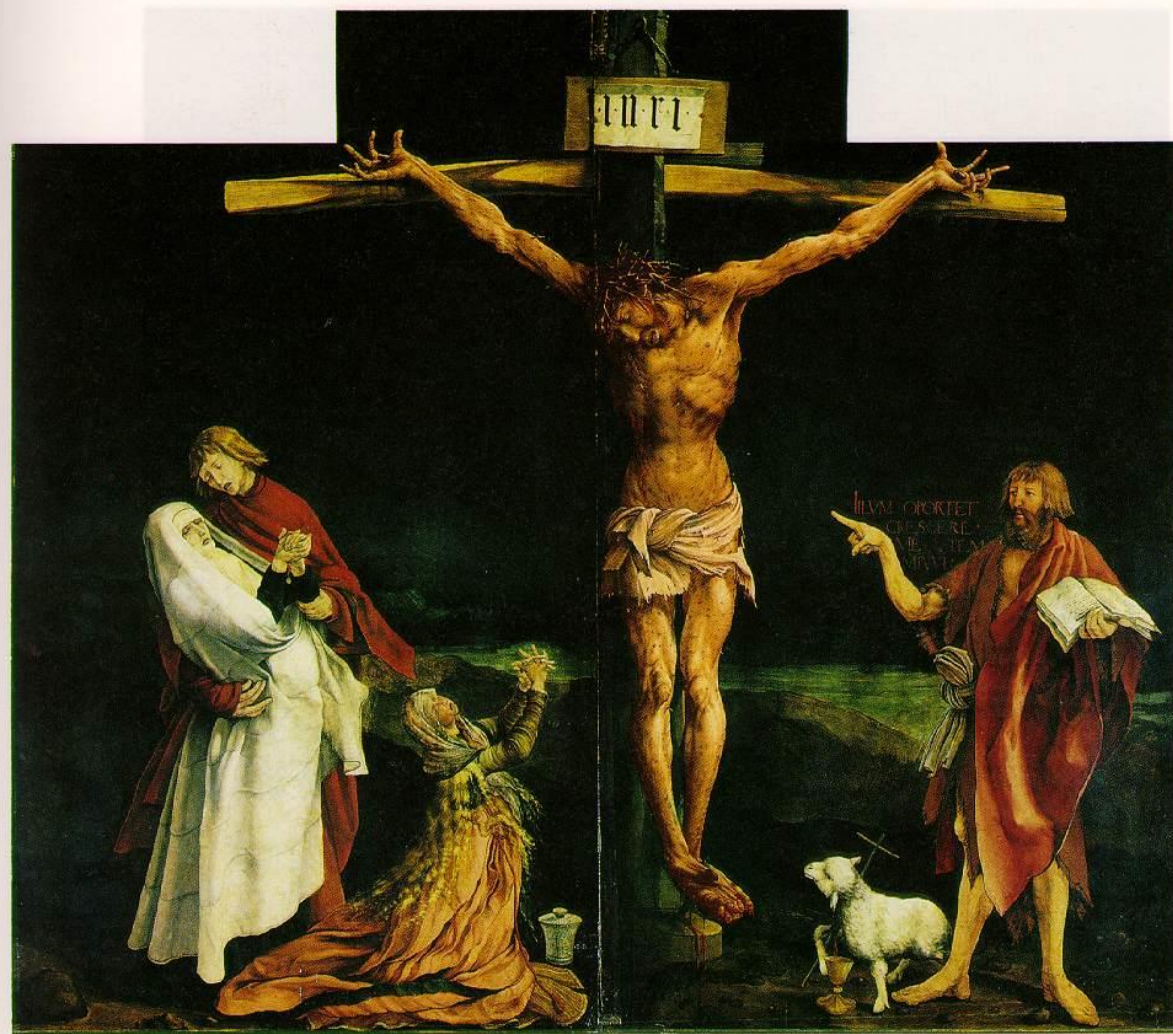


Christ in the Old Testament



*Matthew Grunewald
The Crucifixion*

**Our task as disciples is to:
Understand the OT Scripture,
see how it points to Christ ,
and then apply it to our lives**

Christ in the Old Testament

- Christ is the interpretive key to the Bible
 - Cannot interpret correctly unless you use the right key!
- The question we must ask as we read the OT...
 - How does the Gospel (the life and work of Christ) come to bear on “this text”

Christ in the Old Testament

- The entire Old Testament is pregnant with the message of the Bible. In other words, we could say that the Old Testament is pregnant with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is round with the gospel ... Granted, in the earlier stages of salvation history ... the gospel is more difficult to detect, but as salvation history progresses the shape of and the promise of the gospel becomes more evident. So as we look throughout the Old Testament ... we see it is increasingly easy to detect the specific contours and the specific content of the gospel ... The gospel is [in the Old Testament] in utero.
 - Mike Bullmore, from the sermon "God's Great Heart of Love"

Christ in the Old Testament

- All the Scriptures are about Jesus Christ, even where there is no explicit prediction. That is, there is a fullness of implication in all Scriptures that points to Christ and is satisfied only when he has come and done his work. "The meaning of all the Scriptures is unlocked by the death and resurrection of Jesus."
 - Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*, p. 54

Christ in the Old Testament

- Luke 24:13-27
 - He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Christ in the Old Testament

- As we consider this, I'd like us to understand
 - 5 Theological Truths
 - 3 Important Considerations
 - 1 method of reading the OT scriptures

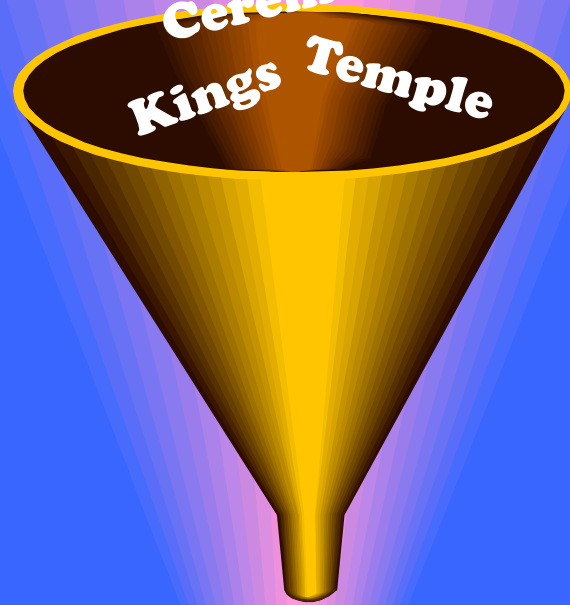
5 Theological Truths

- 1) Every part of OT points to Jesus
 - Promises, Prophecies, Patterns, Law, Narrative
 - Jesus taught this
 - Lk 24:27
 - » And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself
 - » '*Moses and all the Prophets*' is a merism for the entirety of Scripture
- There are the obvious references to Christ
 - Gen 3:15
 - Dt 18:18
 - Isa 7 & 9 & 53
 - Mal 4:5-6
 - What about when no obvious messianic pointers in text?
 - What about when it look empty of Christ?

5 Theological Truths

- 2) Remember, every OT text that seems to have no bearing on Christ is part of OT Cannon that does
 - John 5:39-40 (Context is rebuking Pharisees)
 - You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life
 - Jesus rebuking opponents for NOT knowing the purpose of Scripture!
 - The very nature of OT Scripture was to point to Jesus

Law Prophecies Promises
Sacrifices Feasts
People Ceremonies



Jesus
Christ

5 Theological Truths

- 3) No OT text can be rightly be interpreted unless we understand how it is fulfilled in Jesus
 - Matt 5:17-18
 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

5 Theological Truths

- A couple of observations...
 - Understand that Jesus talking about what we call the Old Testament
 - Recognize that Jesus is affirming the validity of the entire OT (Law and Prophets)
 - Jesus is talking About himself!
 - Jesus came to fulfill the Law & Prophets
 - Jesus makes a critical clarification
 - All OT must be understood by who he is and what he did
 - » Massive interpretive implications

5 Theological Truths

- 4) The NT writers adopted Jesus' Christocentric understanding of the Old Testament
 - Turn to Matt 2:13-15 & Hosea 11:1
 - Does this seem like a "leap" to anyone else?
 - Shows how the NT writers approached the text
 - Gal 2:15-25
 - The Mosaic Law leads to Christ
 - Heb 10:1-14
 - Christ is fulfillment of sacrifices
 - Heb 4:15; 7:11, 23-27
 - Christ is the fulfillment of the priesthood
 - Heb 3:1-6
 - Jesus is fulfillment of Moses
 - Heb 4:1-3, 8-11
 - Jesus is fulfillment of Sabbath
 - Jn 4:21-23, 2:19-21
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of the Temple

5 Theological Truths

- 5) Apostles encouraged us to take a Christocentric approach to the OT
 - 2 Tim 3:14-17
 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - V. 15 controls v. 16-17
- What we have to understand is...
 - OT is not just Jewish Scripture, but Christian Scripture

5 Theological Observations

- Conclusion:
 - Every OT text must be interpreted in light of Jesus and His ministry or else we will misapply the text!



3 Considerations

- 1) Progressive Revelation
 - Later revelation builds on earlier revelation
 - Heb 1:1-3
 - Jesus is climactic Word from God
 - Everything finds its fulfillment in Christ
 - Patriarchal promises, Circumcision, Exodus, Tabernacle, holiness code, Offices (Prophet, Priest and King), prophecy, wisdom

3 Considerations

- 2) All Old Covenants must be understood in light of the New
 - Adamic, Noahic, Abramic, Mosaic, Davidic
 - 2 Cor 3:13-16
 - We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
 - E.g. 2 Sam 7:11-14
 - The veiled reading...Solomon
 - The unveiled reading...Jesus Christ
- Christ is the interpretive key
 - Cannot understand the Old Covenant (testament) unless you understand New Covenant (Christ)

Moon can ONLY be seen
in light of the Sun



3 Considerations

- 3) The goal of your Bible Study is all-important
 - Whatever you think the goal of Bible study to be will govern what you get out of it
 - If you think Bible study has as its goal good behavior (behavior modification)...
 - Then what you will get out of it is law and morality
 - If you think Bible study has as its goal Knowledge
 - Then your study will tend to be Academic
 - » You will learn "about" God
 - If you think Bible study has as its goal Happiness
 - Then your study will always focus on the light and enjoyable
 - If you think Bible study has as its goal repentance
 - Then your study will always focus on falling into temptation and sin

3 Considerations

- But...
 - If the goal of your Bible study is to have Christ formed in you...
 - Then you will focus on Christ, His work and fulfillment



3 Considerations



- Eph 4:11-13, 15
 - It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
- Col 1:28-29
 - We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

3 Considerations



- Rom 8:29
 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son
- Gal 4:19-20
 - My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

3 Considerations

- If Christ being formed in us is the goal...
 - We must see Christ in the Old Testament
- That brings us to the “How” question...
 - How do we correctly shine the “son”-light of Christ on the OT in order to begin to see the “moon”?
 - Because the more we able to do this, the greater our understanding of the OT will be!



One Method

