

Moses & The Prophets - A Testament To Jesus.

Part 1 - Christ Open's The Scriptures

Introduction

The Old Testament is overflowing with Gospel promises and Christological themes, but not everyone understands this. For many the Old Testament is a closed book. For others it is a frightening picture of a God who does nothing but thunder from a mountaintop, impose harsh laws, and smite the evildoer. For the dispensationalist, who believes that God's message and the way of salvation change from time to time, the Gospel of the Old Testament remains shrouded.

The Old Testament can be a joy to study if we have the key. The key is Christ. Luther says: "If you would interpret well and confidently, set Christ before you, for He is the man to whom it [the Old Testament] applies, every bit of it." (*Luther's Works 35:247*)

There are two ways of seeing Christ in the Old Testament. The first is by taking note of the rectilinear prophecies - that is those passages of the Old Testament which are quoted as being fulfilled in the New Testament. The second is in seeing a type of Him in some of the people, events, and places recorded in these Scriptures. Some examples of such typology are noted in the New Testament such as Jesus being called out of Egypt (*Matt. 2:15*), being a priest in the order of Melchizedek (*Heb. 7:17*), a Lamb to take away the sins of the world (*Jn. 1:29*). Reading and meditating upon the sacred writings of the Old Testament in this way will make them come alive for us, and by them our faith will increase. We will discuss only a few of the types to whet our appetites for further exploration.

From Indigestion To Heart-burn - Luke 24:13-32

1. What were the disciples on the road to Emmaus experiencing before their conversation with the risen Christ?
2. How did they describe their experience in verse 32?
3. When have you had a similar experience, as your eyes were opened to understanding?
4. Through what instrument does Christ continue to meet us, walk with us, live with us, reveal himself to us, and cause our hearts to burn?
5. According to verses 25-26 what did the Old Testament (the prophets) foretell about the promised Christ?
6. Do you think that the Old Testament gave enough clues about the Messiah so that people should have recognized Him? Why or why not?
7. After Jesus opened up the Scriptures for them, do you think that these disciples saw the Old Testament in a new way?
8. Many people struggle with the Old Testament. They only see laws, historical records, and boring accounts which seem to have nothing to do with them. According to Jesus how much of the Old Testament is dedicated to showing us who the Messiah is and what He came to do? (*Nt. v.27*)
9. Continue by reading verses 45-47 where Jesus opens the minds of the rest of the disciples to the real meaning of the Old Testament. What specific items about the Christ does the Old Testament mention?
10. According to the summary of the Old Testament that Jesus gives here, what did the prophets say that Christ came to do?
11. How does this encourage us to take greater interest in, and have greater expectations from the Word of the Old Testament for our faith?

Searching The Scriptures For Christ - John 5:36-40, 45-46

1. According to these verses does Jesus expect those who are in the Word to recognize Him?
2. What three testimonies about Jesus are listed in verses 36-37?
3. Who gave testimony to Christ in the Old Testament, and to what other testimony above could that have been compared to give them the answer to who Christ was?
4. What did the people studying the scriptures hope to gain according to verses 39-40?
5. How can people, yet today, miss out on the gift of eternal life even though they may read and study the scriptures?
6. Who does Christ say will accuse the people, according to verse 45, and why?
7. Moses, as representative of the whole Old Testament, had one person in mind when delivering God's covenant to the people. How did the actions of the Jews in verses 16-18 do violence to the message of the covenant, and justify Moses' accusations against them?
8. How does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (*Luke 16:25-31*) echo what Jesus is teaching from John's Gospel?
9. Why could knowledge of God's Word, without faith, be dangerous? (*vv.39-40, 45*)
10. Through faith in Jesus and His atoning sacrifice what does His Word freely give us? (*vv.24-25*)

Old Testament Types - A Preview Of The Messiah

In addition to Messianic (rectilinear) prophecies, Jesus is found throughout the Old Testament even where a prophecy is not quoted as fulfilled in the New Testament. Jesus shows himself to us in the Old Testament through types. A type is an example of what Jesus, the Messiah would be like.

List any of types which come to mind. They can be places (the temple), things (the manna), events (the Passover), or people (Israel):

In this study we will focus primarily on people types. Next time we will focus on Abraham as a type of Jesus, so before meeting next week take time to read: Genesis 12 - the calling of Abram; 15 - God's covenant with Abraham; 16:1-15 - Abram is promised a son; 21 - The birth of Isaac; and 22:1-18 - The testing of Abraham.

Part 2 - Abraham & Jesus

The Shadow & Fulfillment

1. Genesis spends nearly 14 chapters on the life of Abraham, offering us a great example of a faith-filled man in service to God. But even more importantly, he is another example of God using an imperfect human being to fulfill His purpose. Read the following and note how each exemplifies Abraham's weakness and imperfection.

Genesis 12:10-20 -

Genesis 20:1-13 -

Genesis 16:1-4 -

2. We see from these examples that the Old Testament is not so much about Abraham, Moses, and David as it is about God's grace toward His creatures. The gracious love of God is seen most clearly in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Read the following and note those things of which Jesus is the greater.

Matthew 12:3-8 -

Matthew 12:39-41 -

Matthew 12:42 -

4. Who has brought all the Old Testament events, roles, and people into completion according to Matthew 5:17?
5. Caution, do not overdo typology. Abraham, as any other type, is far from being Christ. Types are not as precise as saying $2+2=4$. Just as in the application of Jesus' parables we must not move beyond the "point of comparison." Rather, when Christ is used as the key to what do the lesser events and people of the Old Testament point?

Abraham and Beyond

Read about God's call to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3, and think about the greater one who is seen in him.

1. What were the two basic commands Abram received before hearing the blessings?
2. How was Christ's experience similar according to John 1:1-3, 10-11?
3. Read Psalm 121. How might these have been the words of Abram and Jesus?
4. How can the words of the 121st Psalm help you when the Lord tells you to "go" into unknown dangers, and "leave" what is familiar and secure?
5. What were the promises (Genesis 1:2-3) held out for Abram, and how are they fulfilled in a greater way through Christ?
6. Compare Genesis 12:2 and Luke 1:32. What connection might a first century Jew make?
7. Some thought that one became a child of Abraham by birth (Nt. Mt. 3:9), but it was truly by promise and faith

(Nt. Rom. 9:6-9; Gal. 3:6-9). How do we become members of Jesus' kingdom, children of Abraham and of God? (Matt. 8:10-12; John 1:12-13)

Children of God and Children of Abraham

1. Abraham went. More importantly Jesus went. What going and leaving is a part of our following Jesus?
2. How is the theme of losing to gain carried out in the life of Abraham, our lives and in the greatest way in Christ's life from the following passages?
Genesis 12:1-3 -

Matthew 10:37-39 -

Matthew 19:29-30 -
3. Read Romans 12:1-3. By the power of God's gifts of grace and faith, we can give up ourselves to follow Christ. What gains have you found as a result of following Christ?
4. When other things in our lives are threatened or lost, how does the Gospel of life from death, and gain from loss, help us to see the Father as our constant provider? Jesus as our brother and fellow sufferer? The Holy Spirit as our counselor and comforter?
5. Read Hebrews 11:8-16. While this is a description of Abraham how does verse 14 invite us to include ourselves as fellow strangers on earth?
6. What things make you truly feel like a stranger and alien here, and make you long for your Father's heavenly country?
7. Despite all that we have done to shame God by our sin, God is not ashamed to be called our God! Why is this so, according to verse 16, and how does it help you through difficult times?
8. Abraham's leaving and going, Jesus' leaving and going, our leaving and going to be a blessing to all people are connected. Some of the Old Testament saints were types or shadows of Christ. What role to the New Testament saints play in relation to Christ, according to Matthew 5:14-16?

Can you think of other aspects of Abraham's life which are a foreshadow of the greater fulfillment in Christ.

Part 3 - Father Abraham & Beloved Son Isaac

Introduction

Nowhere is there a greater type-of-Christ incident than the event recorded in Genesis 22. It not only points to the greater event in the life of Christ, but to the greatest substitution event for our salvation.

A Name Which Involved Promise And Faith

The event recorded in Genesis 22 takes on even greater significance when we consider what it was like for Abraham to carry his name. *Abram* meant “exalted father” but he was childless. Later, God named him *Abraham* which meant “father of a multitude”, but when named this, and for some time afterward he had no children of his own. He even planned to select one of his servants, Eliezer of Damascus, to be his heir.

Can you imagine introducing yourself as “exalted father” while being childless, or the irony of being addressed as “father of a multitude” while having no children. It took a great deal of faith to bear that name; faith in God’s promise.

1. Read Genesis 18:1-15. What evidence is there that Sarah, in her old age, had given up hope in God’s promise (See also Genesis 17:17-19)?
2. In verse 12 what was her reaction to God’s promise that she would be a mother within a year?
3. How are we tempted to react to promises, which seem to remain unfulfilled for us? Offer examples if you can.
4. Read Genesis 21:1-7. Isaac was born, just as God promised. What was Sarah’s reaction in verse 6, and how was this reaction the same and different than her previous reaction?
5. Isaac means “laughter” Why was the name of Sarah and Abraham’s son so appropriate?
6. How does this relate to our appropriate response to God’s faithfulness in fulfilling all of his promises?

Your Only Son

Read Genesis 22:1-19.

1. Abraham and Sarah had waited so long for the birth of their son that it would seem unthinkable that God would command Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Read Genesis 15:4-5. Trusting in this promise how did Abraham respond to God’s command?
2. God called upon Abraham to sacrifice, “Your son, your only son...whom you love.” Why do you think God emphasized that relationship between Abraham and Isaac in His command to sacrifice him?
3. Read Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5; John 3:16 and 1 John 4:9-10. How do these verses relate to what was commanded of Abraham on Mount Moriah?
4. What might have been going through Abraham’s mind as he proceeded to carry out God’s command?
5. When Isaac asked about the sacrifice, what prophetic answer did Abraham offer him (v.8)?
6. One lamb was offered as an immediate, temporal substitute (v.13), one was offered as a later, eternal substitute (John 1:29). Identify these substitute lambs, and the result and scope of what they did.
7. Why does God commend Abraham (v.12), and why is the Lord worthy of praise for the same reason (Rom. 8:32)?
8. What does the writer to the Hebrews tell us about the reason for Abraham’s confidence, and why does this make Isaac an even more significant type of Christ (Hebrews 11:17-19)?

The Ram On The Tree

1. God put the story of the sacrifice of His beloved Son in events to which we can relate. Abraham and Isaac give us a preview of what God would do Himself, yet with what notable exception?
2. What words from verse 8 and verse 14 reveal that the appearance of the substitute sacrifice was no accident?
3. Read Hebrews 10:1-12 and Mark 10:45. In our English translations we might read that he came to give his life as a ransom “for many,” but the original Greek actually reads “instead of or in the place of many”. In light of Hebrews 10, how might this change our understanding of what Christ is saying?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. There was no substitute waiting in the bushes for Jesus. He was the substitute. Why do we need a substitute like Jesus?
5. If the one who had no sin was made sin for us, then what have we who do have sin become?
6. Abraham called that place “The Lord will Provide” It has a double meaning. One for Isaac and one for us. What is the meaning for us when we need assurance that the debt for our sin has been paid?
7. God made a great promise to Abraham. Because Abraham did not withhold His beloved son, what resulted?
8. Because God our Father did not withhold His Son, what similar result has occurred, and what is our part in it?

God has offered all these things in the Old Testament for our instruction. They demonstrate the mercy and grace of God, and point us to the greatest expression of that grace and mercy in His Son Jesus Christ. Consider continuing your study of the Old Testament; paying special attention to the way in which God foreshadowed His plans for you in Christ. On your own take a look at Moses as a type of Christ. Note the similarities of their birth under oppressive, violent kings, the slaughter of children, and their escape and upbringing in Egypt to serve as deliverers. Have fun with the insights the Holy Spirit gives you as you continue your studies.