

WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT VERSE?

Session 4: Christ

*And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

- Luke 24:25-27

CHRIST IS THE INTERPRETIVE KEY

- Jesus gives himself as the interpretive key for all of scripture.
- "The gospel stands as the core message of the Bible, which in all its parts testifies to God's saving acts culminating in the person and work of Christ."¹
- "We should read the end in the light of the beginning and the beginning in view of the end."² - Kevin DeYoung

TWO ENCOURAGEMENTS

1 Pet. 1:10-12 - Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

WE HAVE THE WHOLE CANON

- "The process of analyzing and synthesizing how the Old and New Testaments progress, integrate, and climax in Christ is *incomplete* until we study every passage in its *final* context, the canon of Scripture, where God discloses the final meaning of his word."³ - Oren Martin

WE HAVE GOOD WORK AHEAD

- "Yes, the Bible is complex. And in some sections can be quite complicated. But what if the Bible's complexity isn't a hurdle to jump but a scenic trail to run? What if the Bible's many characters, events, and places are not in the way of getting to know Jesus but are the way to know him? What if the Bible's numerous pages aren't a reason for intimidation but a call to exploration?"⁴

¹ Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith | The Gospel and the Application of Salvation by the Holy Spirit

² Kevin DeYoung, "Can That Be Right? The Use of Old Testament Prophecy in the New Testament."

³ Oren Martin, "How Do The Old and New Testaments Progress, Integrate, and Climax in Christ?"

⁴ Stephen Wellum, "Christ from Beginning to End."

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

Q: How do we read scripture broadly with a Christ-centered lens?

We are going to explore:

1. Categories and examples
2. Principles and case study
3. Guidelines and resources

1) CATEGORIES & EXAMPLES⁵

THEMES

- Look for ways your passage fits into the major themes that stretch from Genesis to Revelation. Themes like kingship, creation, sacrifice, son, faith, grace, God's presence, and glory will help you put your text in its appropriate canonical context because they span the entire canon. How do these progress and culminate in Jesus Christ?

PROPHECY

- **Look back and forward!**
 - **Acts 8:32-35** - Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.
- **Expect near & far fulfillment of some prophecy.**
 - The prophet Samuel had a prophecy for King David that details a promise directly from God concerning David's son: "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you; When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:11-13).
 - Solomon was the partial fulfillment of Samuel's words, but Jesus is "greater than Solomon" and the more thorough fulfillment (Matthew 12:42).

TYOLOGY

- English word "typical" means something follows a certain pattern.
- Typology analyzes patterns in Scripture which show up as a *person, event, or institution* in the OT that points forward to fulfillment in the NT.
- Types are patterns rooted in history, designed by God, and involve progression toward fulfillment in Christ.

⁵ This section represents content synthesized from "40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible" by Robert Plummer and "40 Questions About Biblical Theology" by Jason DeRouchie, Oren Martin, and Andrew Naselli.

PERSON

- Adam
 - Adam was a type of Christ (Rom. 5:14). When Adam is first introduced, he represents the entire human race. "Adam-like"-people continue to carry on Adam's role through the covenants (Noah, Abraham, Israel, David) which ultimately reaches fulfillment in Jesus, who is called the last Adam.
 - **Romans 5:14-15, 17** - *Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ... For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

EVENT - Many of the events in the Bible are significant in God's plan. They not only had meaning for the people of the day when they happened, but they also point forward and anticipate Christ's coming and work.

- Exodus
 - In the exodus, God redeems Israel from Egypt through a sacrifice by which they escape God's judgment and experience deliverance.
 - In the NT, Christ's sacrifice redeems us from slavery to sin and God's judgment.

INSTITUTIONS - Specific institutions by their very nature, structure, and purpose also anticipate the Redeemer to come.

- Priesthood
 - The high priest was a mediator between God and the people.
 - The entire priestly role anticipates a redeemer who will fully deal with sin and bring full access to God.
 - **Hebrews 4:14-15** - *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

CONTINUITY & DISCONTINUITY - What is the same as before and what has changed?

- Circumcision
 - **Genesis 17:10-14** - *This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."*
 - **Galatians 6:12-16** - *It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you*

circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

2) PRINCIPLES & CASE STUDY⁶

Case study question: How should a Christian relate to OT promises?

1. Christians benefit from OT promises only through Christ

- a. **Gen. 22:17-18** - *I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.*
- b. **Gal. 3:7-9, 13-14, 16, 29** - *Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"-- so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. ... Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

2. Old Covenant Curses Become New Covenant Curses

- a. **Deut. 30:6-7** - *And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.*
- b. The NT displays these curses as warnings against apostasy and against all those who oppose God and his people (Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 6:20-26; 2 Tim. 2:12).
- c. Those in Christ will not experience curse in a punitive way, for Christ bears upon himself God's curse against all believers.
 - i. **Gal. 3:13** - *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"--*
 - ii. **Rom. 5:9** - *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

3. As Part of the New Covenant, Christians Inherit the Old Covenant's Original and Restoration Blessings

- a. Conditional blessings and curses were given in the OT based on obedience.
 - i. **Lev. 26:1, 11-12** - *"You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God. ... I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not*

⁶ Adapted from "How Should A Christian Relate to Old Testament Promises" by Jason DeRouchie

abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

ii. **Ezek. 37:27** - My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

b. Because Israel did not fully obey what God instructed, the Mosaic covenant resulted in curse and condemnation, not blessing.

c. In the NT, Christ's perfect obedience satisfies God's demands and the blessings promised have been applied to Christians (in part now, and in full later).

i. **2 Cor. 6:16** - *What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

4. Through The Spirit, Some Blessings of the Christian's Inheritance Are Already Enjoyed, Whereas Others Are Not Yet

a. **Eph. 1:3, 13-14** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ... In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

b. In Christ, believers enjoy some blessings now, and others will be enjoyed in full later.

i. **Now** - election, adoption, sonship, redemption, forgiveness, sealing

ii. **Later** - resurrection, new heavens and earth

2 Cor. 1:20 - *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.*

That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

3) GUIDELINES & RESOURCES

- Read!
- Investigate the book's background, date, author.
 - ESV Study Bible | NIV Study Bible
- Pay attention to context.
- Seek to understand what the author is trying to convey to his original audience.
- Locate the text in relation to the whole canon.
 - Covenants can be a helpful guide (Adam/Noah → Abraham → Moses → New Covenant)
- Use cross references.
 - Where else does this theme or concept emerge and develop?
 - Where is this located in relation to the whole canon - culminating in Christ?
- Seek appropriate application.
 - *"The Bible was written to others—but speaks to you. The Bible is about God—but draws you in. Your challenge is always to reapply Scripture afresh, because God's purpose is always to rescript your life."* - **David Powlison**
 - Don't approach the Bible with the question: "what does this mean for me?" without asking prior questions: "How does this text relate to Christ?" And "How do we relate to Christ?"
 - Check out "4 Ways to Read the Bible for Personal Application" by David Powlison.

Christ the True & Better⁷

*Christ, the true and better Adam
Son of God and Son of man
Who, when tempted in the garden
Never yielded, never sinned
He, who makes the many righteous
Brings us back to life again
Dying, He reversed the curse, then
Rising, crushed the serpent's head*

*Christ, the true and better Isaac
Humble son of sacrifice
Who would climb the fearful mountain
There to offer up his life
Laid with faith upon the altar
Father's joy and only son
There salvation was provided
Oh, what full and boundless love*

*Christ, the true and better Moses
Called to lead a people home
Standing bold to earthly powers
God's great glory to be known
With his arms stretched wide to heaven
See the waters part in two
See the veil is torn forever
Cleansed with blood we pass now through*

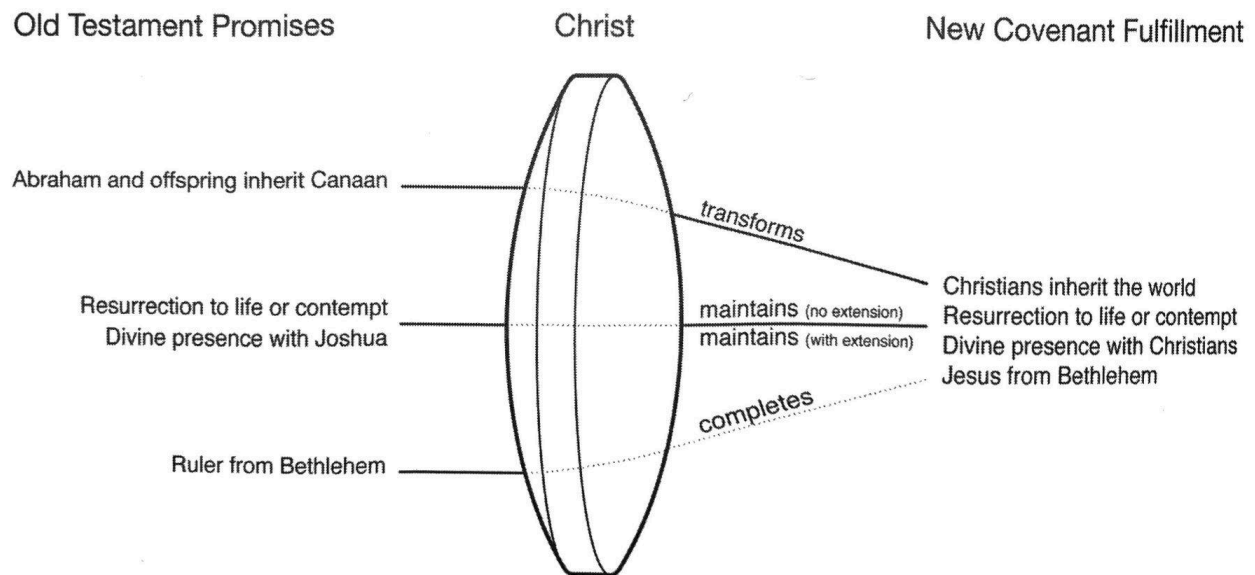
*Christ, the true and better David
Lowly shepherd, mighty king
He the champion in the battle
Where, o death, is now thy sting?
In our place He bled and conquered
Crown Him Lord of majesty
His shall be the throne forever
We shall e'er His people be*

*Amen! Amen!
From beginning to end
Christ the story, His the glory
Alleluia! Amen!*

⁷ "Christ the True & Better" by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Keith Getty

APPENDIX: Appropriating OT Promises as Christians⁸

“When Jesus ‘fulfills’ the OT Law and Prophets, he is actualizing what scripture anticipated and achieving what God promised and predicted (Matt. 5:17). But while every promise is indeed “yes” in Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20), and while every blessing is ours in Christ (Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:3), the way Jesus fulfills the various OT promises and secures them as “yes” for us is not static. So, we must approach biblical promises through a salvation-historical framework that has Jesus at the center - as a lens that gives focus to the lasting significance of all God’s promises.”



Christ Transforms Some OT Promises

- Christ fulfills some OT promises by transforming them. That is, he develops both the promise’s makeup and audience. These promises relate most directly to shadows that clarify and point to a greater substance in Christ or OT patterns or types that find their climax or antitype in Jesus.
- **Gen. 17:8** - *And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."*
- **Gen. 26:3-4** - *Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...*
- **Gal. 3:16** - *Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.*

⁸ Adapted from “How Should A Christian Relate to Old Testament Promises” by Jason DeRouchie in the book “40 Questions About Biblical Theology.”

- **Rom. 4:13** - *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*
 - Only in relation to Christ do the promises of land, seed, and blessing reach their ultimate fulfillment, and all in Christ enjoy the full blessings.

Christ Maintains Some OT Promises (No Extension)

- Many of the promises Christ maintains without any extension (without adding any further promise beneficiaries to the original promise) are explicit restoration promises that include a vision of a global salvation after Israel's exile.
- **Dan. 12:2** - *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*
- **John 5:28-29** - *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

Christ Maintains Some OT Promises (With Extension)

- When Christ fulfills some promises he extends the parties related to those promises.
- **Isaiah 49:6** - *he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*
 - Through the messianic servant-person, God would save not only ethnic Israelites but also some from the nations.
- **Acts 13:47** - *For so the Lord has commanded us [Paul & Barnabas], saying, "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'*"
 - A promise related to the work of the servant Christ has now become a commission for all the servants identified with him.

Christ Completes Some OT Promises

- There are some OT promises Christ has already fully completed.
- **Micah 5:2** - *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*
- **Matthew 2:3-6** - *When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"*