

Part 7: All About Jesus

JESUS AND THE BIG THEMES

Creation	The first creation was through Jesus, who also sustains all creation. The new creation is through Jesus who sustains it. All creation was 'by him and for him'. (Col 1:16) All things will acknowledge that he is Lord. (Phil. 2:10&11)
Covenant	He is the 'seed' of Abraham through whom all nations will be blessed. The law of the Old, Moses Covenant describes the righteousness that man didn't have but which comes to us in Christ. Christ is the promised 'mediator' of the New Covenant which is sealed with his blood on the cross. He is the head of the global New Covenant community, the church, which meets with him in the fulfilment of the Abraham Covenant in Revelation 21.
Kingdom	Jesus the Christ (=Messiah = 'anointed one' = king) is the true, eternal King of his people promised to David (2Sam. 7:11ff). He is the Good Shepherd promised in Jer. 23 and Ezek. 34 etc. and proclaimed in John 10. He is King over all things and all people and all places for all times (Acts 2:29-36; Eph.1:19b-23; Col. 15-20. He is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords' (Rev. 19:16). The Kingdom of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ' (Rev. 11:15)
Worship	He is the true object of all creation's worship since he is Creator, Redeemer and King. He is also the one true praise-leader who brings us into the Father's presence: Hebrews 2:10-13. He is also the 'way in' to the presence of God as we pray: see the 'asking in my name' references in John's Gospel (14:13&14; 15:7&16; 16:23,24&26) and Hebrews 10:19-25
Witness	He is the one who is sent to bear the perfect witness to the Father in all his life – 'the exact representation of his being'. But he is also the one who commissions us as his witnesses – fellow-workers with him in the mission of God.
Warfare	He was promised as the one who will crush Satan's head in the enmity between man and Satan that God sets up after Adam and Eve sin in Genesis 3. He is the commander of the Lord's hosts in Joshua 5:13ff. He is the conquering hero of those songs in Isaiah who defeat sin and Satan. He is the one who conquers Satan on the cross – triumphing over him and disarming his powers. He will oversee the final death of Satan and of death itself.

OTHER CONNECTIONS

'Offices'	<p>Prophet – who speaks God's word: 'Thus says the Lord' in the OT becomes 'Truly, truly I say to you ... in the gospels. He is the 'eternal word' (John 1:1-3). See also Deuteronomy 18:15-19.</p> <p>Priest – the 'go-between' who brings together people and God: 'We have a great priest over the house of God' (Hebrews 4:14-16 & 10:19-25). He is 'Priest for ever' (Hebrews 5:6).</p> <p>King – Anointed One who proclaims his Kingship as he rides into Jerusalem – the King who dies for his people. He 'reigns for ever' and 'of the increase of his peace and government there will be no end' (Isaiah 9:7).</p>
Roles	<p>The Suffering Servant of the four 'servant songs' in Isaiah. 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:1-11 and 52:13-53:12.</p> <p>The Anointed Conqueror of the four 'conquering hero songs' in Isaiah. 60:1-3&19-22; 61:1-9; 61:10-62:12; 63:1-6.</p>
Names and Titles	<p>There are many names and titles of Jesus that are found in the Old Testament. Among the most significant are:</p> <p>Jesus – from the Hebrew 'Yeshua' which means 'Jehovah Saves'</p> <p>Messiah, Anointed One – from Psalm 2:2</p> <p>Son of Man – from Daniel 7:13</p> <p>Immanuel – from Isaiah 7:14</p> <p>Shepherd – from e.g. Micah 5:4</p>

Part 7: All About Jesus

EVEN MORE CONNECTIONS ... JESUS AND THE MAIN GENRES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JESUS IS THE COMPLETION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT'S STORIES, for example

1. Covenant
 - a. 'I will be your God ... you will be my people' – Jesus completes both halves of the covenant promise
 - b. 'Be holy even as I the Lord your God am holy' – he also completes both parts of the covenant command
2. Kingship
 - a. True king *and* true subject – everything that David (and the other kings) and Israel were meant to be.
3. Worship, e.g.
 - a. Sacrifice – once and for all
 - b. Priest – great high priest
 - c. Temple – ultimately Him! Rev 22:10-22

JESUS IS THE FULFILMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT'S PROPHECY, for example

1. His Identity
 - a. e.g. suffering servant and or anointed conqueror
2. His Mission
 - b. as the one who would be e.g. redeemer, teacher (e.g. the law going out from Zion in Micah 4:2)
3. His Destiny
 - c. e.g. Israel's light, to whom all nations will come; The fulfiller of the global mission – Isaiah 65&66

JESUS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT'S WISDOM, for example

1. Under the One who made the sun – living his life before God
2. Wisdom's role is His – e.g. Prov. 8:11ff
3. The vocabulary is Him!
 - hokmah: practical skill (e.g. in war) wisdom (in administration) shrewdness,
 - da'ath: knowledge, perception, skill, discernment,
 - biyah: understanding, discernment to know how best to act, faculty (e.g. 2Ch12:32, the men of Issachar)
 - sekel: prudence, insight, understanding, good sense

JESUS IS THE FOCUS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT'S VISIONS

Old Testament apocalyptic literature paints mysterious but amazing portraits of Christ – it's him that makes sense of the obscure and strange messages of, say Daniel and Ezekiel. See the eye-poppingly wonderful Son of Man vision in Daniel 7 and Temple visions in Ezekiel 40-43.

JESUS IS THE SINGER AND THE SONG, for example

1. He voices the Psalms – explicitly, e.g. Ps.22:1 and implicitly he lives the Psalms e.g. Ps.22:2ff, or take Ps.23 as one that he can best sing of all men!
2. The Psalms vocalise Him - especially the royal psalms – e.g. Ps.21 (can this Psalm *really* only be about David? Look at the terms)

Part 7: All About Jesus

FINALLY, SOME SPECIFIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES AND JESUS.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfilment
<p>An important ruler ...</p> <p>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <i>Micah 5:2</i></p>	<p>... will come from Bethlehem</p> <p>“So Joseph ... went ... to Bethlehem. ... While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.” <i>Luke 2:4, 6-7</i></p>
<p>A virgin will bear a son ...</p> <p>“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” <i>Isaiah 7:14</i></p>	<p>... whose name will be Immanuel</p> <p>“All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, ‘God with us.’” <i>Matthew 1:23</i></p>
<p>God’s special Servant will suffer ...</p> <p>“See, my servant ... He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. ... He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter ...” <i>Isaiah 53:3, 7</i></p>	<p>... and be rejected and killed</p> <p>“We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be turned over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him.” <i>Luke 18:31-33</i></p>
<p>The righteous King will ride ...</p> <p>“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous, and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <i>Zechariah 9:9</i></p>	<p>... into Jerusalem on a donkey</p> <p>“As they approached Jerusalem ... They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.” <i>Matthew 21:6-8</i></p>
<p>When the Messiah is killed ...</p> <p>“... he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.” <i>Psalms 34:20</i></p>	<p>... none of his bones will be broken</p> <p>“But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.” <i>John 19:33</i></p>
<p>When the Messiah is killed ...</p> <p>“They will look on me, the one they have pierced” <i>Zechariah 12:10</i></p>	<p>... he will be pierced.</p> <p>“... one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear ...” <i>John 19:34</i></p>

Part 7: All About Jesus

MEGA-HEADING 1: JESUS IS THE FOCAL POINT OF GOD'S WORD

We couldn't finish our bird's eye view of the Bible without focussing on the way that the whole book is all about Jesus the Christ.' As J.I. Packer put it, 'Jesus saw himself as the key to Scripture and it as the key to himself.'

- **The Old Testament Points to Him**

'We do not find Christ in the Old Testament by spotting accidental references or similarities here and there; he is the centre, the structure of the whole history of the Old Testament.' (Edmund Clowney)

- In Genesis 3:15, Jesus is pointed to as the offspring, or 'seed', of Adam who will crush Satan's head. From that moment on, the Old Testament needs him to complete the jigsaw of prophecies, psalms, history, law etc. In fact, even Adam before the fall cannot be rightly understood just by looking at Adam and Eve – we need to see the 'proper man', the 'true and faithful son', the supreme image-bearer in order to understand the first man.
- Jesus is the one whom God repeatedly promises; so that God's people in successive generations are taught to wait for God's anointed one and to expect more and more from him.
- Jesus himself taught that the Old Testament is about him:

John 5:39-40 ³⁹You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Luke 24:25-27 & 44-48 ²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ... ⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

- **The New Testament Proclaims Him**

Jesus' identity (who he is), his mission (what he came to do) and his call (the proper response to him) are the themes of the gospels. Throughout the rest of the New Testament, those who have obeyed that call are taught, encouraged, warned and guided as they take up their crosses and follow Jesus.

Some of the ways in which we see that Jesus is the focal point of God's word are shown on the next pages.

MEGA-HEADING 2: JESUS IS GOD'S WORD MADE FLESH

We also need to bear in mind that Jesus *is* the word. In fact this is the foundation for the scriptures being the word of God – it is the Spirit-'ex'pired account of the Word made flesh. As A.W. Tozer put it, 'The Scriptures are in print what Christ is in person. The inspired word is like a faithful portrait of Christ.'

So John opens his Gospel with this:

John 1:1-5 & 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Writing to Christians who were being tempted back into their Judaistic past, the writer to the Hebrews says

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

'The word of God' is that by which he reveals the truth about himself and about ourselves; and it is the means by which he accomplishes his will – in creation and in salvation – for us and for his glory. So everything that God wants to reveal and accomplish, he has revealed and accomplished through his Son, Jesus. He is the 'word made flesh'. 'Jesus is God spelling himself out in a language that man can understand.' (S.D. Gordon)