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Christ in Old Testament 03

Apostle, Prophets preached and wrote Christ from the Old Testament

The Apostles and Prophets who preached the gospel of the Lord Jesus based their preaching on the Old Testament.

Matthew 28:18-20, *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go [c]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Acts 1:8, *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The Apostles that went out into the world to preach the gospel, Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, from the day of Pentecost on, preached Old Testament expositions.

The New Testament wasn't written yet.

Until and after the Lord had gone back to heaven the New Testament wasn't written. In fact the New Testament was completed until the end of the century when they were all dead, except for John.

So the Apostles began preaching, and they had to preach Scripture.

They didn't have the New Testament and they needed to do more than give a personal testimony about what He said, or what they saw.

Peter wrote in his epistle.

2 Peter 1:16-19, *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

What word is more sure than your personal experience?

Scripture because the Spirit of God moved men to write the Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21, *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Peter and the early preachers didn't preach their own experience.

They didn't preach their own walking with Jesus, talking with Jesus, as if that were authoritative in itself.

They had that experience.

John writes in his epistle.

1 John 1:1, *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—*

Instead of their own experience they preached Jesus from the Old Testament.

Acts 2.

In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit comes, it's the Day of Pentecost, the church is born and now the preaching begins.

- Even that most eventful historical day for the church,
- The Holy Spirit, Fathers gift is been dispensed for the first time,
- The Holy Spirit empowering believers to speak the wonderful works of God in all kinds of different languages,
- The people who were there could hear the truth concerning God in their own language,

They could realise it's the fulfilment of the prophetic word spoken by the Prophet Joel.

Peter stands up and explains what was happening.

Acts 2:14-21, *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of*

the Lord. ²¹ And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'

Acts 2:17-21 is the verbatim of Prophet Joel 2:28-32.

Peter preaches the first message on the first day of the church as the gospel goes out at its initial point with a text from the prophet Joel, chapter 2.

This is the beginning of what the Old Testament prophet said would come.

Then further in his sermon he explains the experience.

Acts 2:22-24, *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having oosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

Peter is telling them what they know.

You killed Him, but God raised Him.

Peter continues his sermon based on Pslams 16.

Acts 2:25-28 is verbatim from Pslams 16:8-11.

Acts 2:25-28, *For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'*

What you have there in Psalm 16 is the promise that the Holy One, the Messiah, though He would die, would never have His soul abandoned in Hades. He would never undergo corruption but He would be shown the path of life. That's resurrection. The resurrection was presented in the sixteenth Psalm.

Acts 2:30, *Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,*

Acts 2:30 is a quote from 2 Samuel 7, quote from Psalm 132:11, and from Psalm 89:3.

Psalms 89:3, *"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:*

Psalms 132:11, *The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.*

So, Peter bases the resurrection on Psalm 16, and he basis the subsequent to the resurrection, the seating of His Son on His throne in the other Psalms 89, and Psalm 132.

Acts 2:34, *“For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,*

Acts 2:34 Peter quotes from Psalm 110:1,

Jesus quoted the same thing from Matthew 22:43-44,

Acts 2:36, *“Let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

That’s the first gospel sermon preached by an Apostle, Peter, after the beginning of the church and it’s based on Old Testament texts. That is how they preached from then on.

Acts 3:17-18, *“Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.*

This is a summary of what Peter said.

There were plenty of Old Testament passages that talked about the suffering of Christ.

Isaiah 53, Zechariah 12, and Psalm 22 in a detailed description of His crucifixion. All those passages that refer to the sacrificial system and the offering that God provided in Genesis 22, where God provided an animal to save the life of Isaac.

Acts 3:19-21, *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

On the day of Pentecost and the first two sermons we hear are grounded in Old Testament portions of Scripture.

Acts 3: 22, *For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. Peter quotes from Deuteronomy 18:15.*

The prophet that shall come, famous Messianic text in Deuteronomy chapter 18.

Acts 3:23-24, *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.*

Peter quotes it from 1 Samuel 3:20, and all subsequent prophets onward also announced these days.

Acts 3:25-26, *You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'*²⁶ *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*

Abraham, your father, came the promise in Genesis 22:18, in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

We studied in the book of Galatians, Paul takes that word "seed" and says it's not seeds, it's seed, and that seed refers to Jesus Christ Himself.

Acts 4

After being dragged in before the authorities, the church is exploding, five thousand more believers added to the church. The rulers are greatly concerned. They bring them in, Peter filled with the Holy Spirit preaches to them.

Acts 4:8-12, *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all*

the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' ¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

This Jesus, verse 11, comes right out of **Psalm 118:22**, He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone.

Again he affirms that Jesus is the one who being rejected became the head of the corner. They ought to know that. They know they rejected Him, they also know that thousands and thousands of people have come to believe in Him and the church has been established, the cornerstone being set.

They did their apologetical preaching, their gospel preaching based on the Old Testament.

Acts 7

The sermon of Stephen, count how many references there are to the Old Testament.

He is so saturated with the Old Testament that it's staggering. Sometimes he quotes it specifically, sometimes he infers it. But it's just packed, Genesis, Exodus, the writings of Moses are

here, references to the prophets, to Joshua as well. The prophets, 1 Chronicles, the history books, 2 Samuel he quotes, 1 Samuel, and 1 Kings.

Acts 7:3 **Genesis 12:1** Command to Abraham to Leave Home

Acts 7:6-7 **Genesis 15:13-14** Promise to Abraham Despite Egypt

Acts 7:27-28 **Exodus 2:14** Moses Kills Egyptian

Acts 7:32 **Exodus 3:6, 15** God's Self-Declaration

Acts 7:33-34 **Exodus 3:5, 7-8, 10** Moses Meets God and Is Sent

Acts 7:35 **Exodus 2:14** Rejection of Moses Is Rejection of God

Acts 7:37 **Deuteronomy 18:15** Moses; A Forerunner of the Messiah

Acts 7:40 **Exodus 32:1, 23** Idolatrous Disobedience of Israel

Acts 7:42-43 **Amos 5:25-27** Idolatrous Disobedience of Israel

Acts 7:49-50 **Isaiah 66:1-2** Transcendence of God

Acts 8

Philip and the eunuch. Philip was a member of the early church and sent by the Lord to join this chariot. There was an Ethiopian eunuch who was a court official, queen of the Ethiopians. He was a financial guy in charge of all of her treasure, and he come to Jerusalem to worship.

This is a Gentile Ethiopian who has become a proselyte to Judaism and he comes to worship the true God. He was returning, sitting in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah.

Acts 8:27-31, *So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.*

The veil is over his eyes. He was reading Isaiah 53, he doesn't know who it refers to.

The passage of Scripture which he was reading was from Isaiah.

Acts 8:32-33, *The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth"³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."*

The Jews typically would refer to that to Israel. Israel was the suffering servant. But it doesn't quite work because it says he

didn't open his mouth and Israel complained endlessly and widely about their troubles. It couldn't refer to them because their life was never removed from the earth either, so he doesn't know who this refers to. But he had certainly heard the conventional wisdom which would have been some rabbinical interpretation that didn't make sense.

Acts 8:34-35, *So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"*³⁵ *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.*

That's what they did. They started with the Old Testament and they preached Jesus. The message was effective and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing because he gave his heart to Jesus and he was baptized on the spot.

Acts 10

Again Peter going over to the house of Cornelius, Caesarea and there were Gentiles there.

Acts 10:38-43, *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*³⁹ *And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.*⁴⁰ *Him God raised up on the third day, and*

showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

What do they testify?

“That through His name, everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Is there that in the Old Testament?

Is the message of forgiveness of sins by believing in Jesus in the Old Testament?

Yes!

Isaiah 53,

Jeremiah 31,

Zechariah 13:1,

The forgiveness of sins will come through faith in the Messiah!

Acts 13

We come to Paul, and his companions.

Acts 13:13-23, *Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing*

from them, returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on." ¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. ¹⁸ Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. ²⁰ "After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' ²³ From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—

So Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise to David.

Again Paul goes back to 2 Samuel 7, that verse actually looks at a text in 1 Samuel 9 and 10, a couple of references there. Again they are preaching Jesus the fulfillment of the Old Testament. If

you knew your Old Testament, you would know Jesus is its fulfillment.

Acts 18

Acts 18:24-28, *Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.*

How did he help the people who had already believed?

The power of His ministry was in connecting Jesus as the fulfillment to the Old Testament prophecies.

That's what they did.

That's what Apollos did.

That's what all of them did.

Acts 26

Paul before King Agrippa

Paul was going to be sent to Rome as a prisoner. New Testament books, by this time, have been written. But he talks to King Agrippa who had extensive exposure to Jewish religion and the Jewish Scripture.

Acts 26:19-23, *“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.²¹ For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.²² Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”*

Light to the Gentiles through Messiah is the theme of the opening section of Isaiah 42 and Isaiah 49.

Acts 26:27, King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”

Agrippa was stuck for a short time.

Acts 26:28, *Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."*

What was the persuasion?

The connection of Jesus to the Old Testament.

Jesus is clearly the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises.

Acts 28

Paul was lodged in Rome and lots of people are coming to him to hear him.

Acts 28:23, *So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening*

From morning until evening.

Jews and Gentiles!

Acts 28:24, *And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.*

Old Testament is an ancient book, written centuries ago. Here is a Man who specifically fulfills all that that ancient book said about the Messiah, whether you are a Jew or not, that's convincing.

Acts 28:25-27, *So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to [e]our fathers, ²⁶saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; ²⁷For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." '*

Paul quotes from Isaiah 6:9-10.

He pronounces doom on them, judgment on them because with a full understanding of Christ, from the Old Testament, as the fulfillment of all that the prophets said, they turn their back on that powerful incontrovertible evidence. They walk away and he pronounces final judgment on them.

Acts 28:28-31, *"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!" ²⁹And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves. ³⁰Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.*

There are literally hundreds of references by the writers of the New Testament to the Old Testament. Including all the New Testament writers, there are 312 different Old Testament passages quoted, referenced specifically.

Some have suggested there's as many as two thousand New Testament texts that allude to an Old Testament passage.

There are 50 Old Testament references in Romans alone. The writers of the New Testament were saying that the whole of Christianity, all that's contained in the Christian gospel, in all its fullness and all its richness is bedded and rooted and grounded in the Old Testament, which is the greatest single defense of the Christian faith because you have all that was prophesied in an ancient time fulfilled with centuries in between. That's divine work.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

All the books of the New Testament record this was the theme. Christ and the Old Testament of all apostolic life and ministry.

Conclusion

Revelation 19:9-10, *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Revelation 22:8-9, *Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.*

⁹ *Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

Personally I am so thankful to God for what HE is doing in my life. I can't say it more perfectly what apostle Paul said it.

Ephesians 3:8, *To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,*