

The Witness of the Old Testament to Christ

How does the whole Old Testament point to Christ?

Notes based on Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1988).

A. How does the whole Bible fit together?

1. One useful approach: summarize its teaching on various topics:

"systematic theology"

2. Another useful approach: trace the historical development of themes from Genesis to Revelation:

this is sometimes called "Biblical theology"

3. "Biblical theology"

a. emphasis on the "history of redemption"

b. attempts to understand how God was teaching people through patterns or "types"

that looked forward to Christ (see 1 Pet. 1:10-12)

Romans 5:14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over

those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type (τύπος, typos, "type, pattern, model") of the one who was to come.

Clowney, p. 14: "A type is a form of analogy that is distinctive to the Bible. Like all analogies, a type combines identity and difference."

4. The goal: to view every text in the light of the whole "Genesis-to-Revelation" sweep of the history of redemption

a. The whole of the Bible is God-centered: therefore look in each text for what God is doing, for what it shows us of him (2 Tim 3:16; Rom 15:4)

b. The whole of the Bible is historically structured: therefore look in each text to see how God is gradually unfolding his plan for history

5. This will take thought and study: Even those who lived with Jesus during his earthly ministry were slow to understand how the whole of the Old Testament pointed to Christ (Luke 24:25-27)

B. Examples from the Old Testament

1. Adam & Eve: Gen. 1:26-27; Gen 1-2

son; ruler; image; marriage: exclusive love

2. The Fall: Gen 3

temptations

mercy

promise of an "offspring" (3:15) who would gain victory over serpent

3. Cain & Abel: Gen 4:1-8; 25-26

4. Noah & flood: Gen 6-9: note fulfillment in 1 Pet 3:18-21 and in final judgment

5. Abram: Gen 15:1-6
 6. Abraham and Isaac: Gen. 17:15-21; Gen. 22 (Clowney, pp. 48-59)
 9. Joseph sold into slavery: Gen 37:18-29
 10. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers: Gen 45:1-15
 13. Water from the rock: Exod 17: 1-7; but: Num 20:7-13 (Clowney, 120-126); also 1 Cor 10:4
 20. Jericho: Josh 6
 21. Samson: Judges 13-16; see 15:9-17; also Judg. 16:1, 4, 23-31
 22. David: 1 Samuel 16 - 1Kings 2
 23. Solomon
 24. Jonah
 25. Psalms - several kinds (see Clowney, p. 163): they foreshadow Christ as:
 Suffering servant of Lord (Ps 22); King (greater than David); Shepherd (Ps 23); the Lord who is both Creator and Redeemer (Ps 102:25-28); the Second Adam, true Son of Man (Ps 8:4-6); the Lord of Glory (Ps. 24)
- C. New Testament passages: look back to find the fulfillment of Old Testament themes and look forward to find the completion of those themes in God's final plans for history
1. The wise men: Matt 2:1-12
 2. Healing: Matt. 8:14-17
 3. Stilling the storm at sea: Matt. 8:23-27
 4. Feeding the 5000: Matt. 14:13-21
 5. The Transfiguration: Matt. 17:1-8
- D. What are the benefits of this approach?

All of the class lessons and outlines are posted on the class website <http://www.christianessentialsbc.com>.