The Witness of the Old Testament to Christ
How does the whole Old Testament point to Christ?


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 (\(\text{\theta\upsilon\rho\omicron\omicron\upsigma, typos, "type, pattern, model"}\)) 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


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)


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 - 1 Kings 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


5. The Transfiguration: Matt. 17:1-8

D. What are the benefits of this approach?

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