

Christology of the old testament

(A Study Outline)

Introduction

In this study we will be considering the pictures of Christ from the Old Testament. Sometimes we can lose sight of the fact that even before His incarnation our Lord Jesus was clearly portrayed as the Messiah in Old Testament writings. "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to Me." Jn. 5:39 When Jesus spoke these words, there was as yet no writings of the New Testament. He was referring to the Old Testament writings. Read what our resurrected Lord said to the two on the way to Emmaus, "O foolish men, 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." Lk. 24:25-27 'Beginning at Moses' is the first five books of the Old Testament, which he wrote by inspiration. 'Continuing through all the prophets' speaks clearly that Christ is throughout the Old Testament.

Jesus is the first and the last. Think of the first Gospel promise in Gen. 3:15 and the last Gospel promise of Old Testament times in Mal. 3:1. From the first book to the last book He is given as the Messiah, the anointed one of God to save.

This study is divided into the seven Old Testament periods of history: 1) Patriarchs, 2) Moses and Joshua, 3) Judges, 4) United Kingdom, 5) Divided Kingdom, 6) Exile, 7) Return. As we go through these periods of history we will be viewing the presentations of the Messiah from five categories: 1) Appearances of the pre-incarnate Christ as the Angel of the Lord and others, 2) In Prophecy, 3) In Types, 4) In the Law, 5) In Poetry. It has to be recognized also that this study does not include all of Christ in the Old Testament. There is enough here though to show how He is the everlasting God and that the Bible is the story of salvation, His story.

The period of the patriarchs

This period covers from creation of the world to the going down into Egypt by Jacob's family.

The Appearances of the Messiah(the Angel of the Lord)

- Gen. 16:7-14 He appears to Hagar before Ishmael's birth.
- Gen. 18:1-2, 9-22 He appears with two angels to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre
- Gen. 21:17-20 He appears to Hagar as she is crying.
- Gen. 22:11-18 He appears to Abraham at Mt. Moriah.
- Gen. 24:7 The Angel of the Lord is referred to as going before Abraham's servant.

- Gen. 31:11-13 The Angel of the Lord appears to Jacob in the dream about the goats.
- Gen. 32:24-30 He wrestles with Jacob.
- Gen. 48:16 Jacob refers to Him as blessing Joseph's sons.

Prophecy

- Gen. 3:15 This is the first Gospel promise of the seed of woman, our Jesus, who would ransom all of Adam's race.
- Gen. 49:8-12 At the end of Genesis there is the promise of Judah's descendant who would rule. He is Shiloh, the bringer of peace.
- To Abraham as our spiritual father the promise of a blessing through his seed was repeated over and over again: Gen. 12:1-3, 15:5-6, 17:4-5, 22:1-2, 28:14, 32:12.

Types – These presentations represent how the Messiah would be and what He would do.

- Gen. 14:17-20 Melchizedek (king of righteousness) is the priest of the Most High God and King of Salem(peace).

Moses and Joshua

His Appearances

- Ex. 3:2-17 He appears to Moses at the burning bush.
- Ex. 14:19 He was in the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud.
- Ex. 23:20-21 The promise of Him going before the people.
- Ex. 32:34 'My Angel' will go before the people
- Ex. 33:2 The promise that He will drive out the Canaanites.
- Num. 20:16 At Kadesh Moses refers to Him.
- Num. 22:22 He went to Balaam on his cursing mission.
- Josh. 5:13-15 He appears as the Commander of the army of the Lord.
- Judges 2:1-5 At Bochim He appears to the people of Israel.

Prophecy

- Num. 24:17 He would come who would rule.

Types

- Deut. 18:15-18 Moses, the prophet was a type of the Prophet.
- Num. 21:9 The bronze serpent was a type of Christ raised up on the cross. Jn. 3:14-15
- The types of the Christ that are verified in Scripture as the bronze serpent from Jn. 3:14-15 we can be sure of. There are other types which we may think of out of Scriptures verification. Joshua as a type of Christ with his leading God's people to the promised land. And His name in Hebrew is Jesus in Greek which means

‘Jehovah saves’. Isaac could be considered a type as he goes forth as a sacrifice.

Law – It was through Moses that God gave His Law to His people. In the Law we see the Christ portrayed over and over again. The Law was truly a shadow of Him and His work. Heb. 10:1 The shadow served as a reminder of what was to come, “the substance belongs to Christ.” Col. 2:17

- Passover – Ex. 12:1-14, Lev. 23:4-8 – All sacrifices portray THE sacrifice.
- Day of Atonement – Lev. 16:5-19 , 23:26-32
- Sabbath Day – Ex. 20:8-11(Mt. 11:28)
- Jubilee – Lev. 25:8-55
- Kinsman Redeemer – Deut. 25:5-10

Judges

His Appearances

- Judges 5:23 He is referred to in Deborah’s song.
- Judges 6:11-24 He comes to Gideon.
- Judges 13:3-23 He comes to Manoah and his wife.

United kingdom

His Appearances

- Ps. 34:7 David’s psalm when he feigned madness.
- Ps. 35:5 David’s psalm referring to the destroying Angel.
- 1 Sam 29:9 Achish refers to Him comparing with David.
- 2 Sam. 14:17 The wise woman of Tekoa refers to Him.
- 2 Sam. 19:27 An old saying
- 2 Sam. 24:16-17 To David after his numbering of Israel.
- 1Chron. 21:12 “
- Ecc. 5:6 Paying the vow to Him.

Prophecy

- 2 Sam. 7:12-16 David’s descendant and His work.

Type

- Ps. 72 Solomon and The Great King

Poetry

- Job 19:25-27 The Redeemer – While this may date from the time of Abraham, it was not written down until the United Kingdom.
- Ps. 2:6 The King
- 7 My son, Heb. 1:5
- 8:4-5 Incarnation, Heb. 2:9

- 22:1, 7-8, 16-18, 22 His Passion
- 35:19 Jn. 15:25
- 41:9 Jn. 13:18
- 45:6-7 Heb. 1:8-9
- 69:9 Palm Sunday, Jn. 2:17
- v.21 Good Friday, Mt. 27:34
- v. 25 Jerusalem and Judas, Mt. 23:38, Acts 1:20
- 72:8-11 His Kingdom, v. 17 His Name
- 110:1 His Ascension, Mt. 22:44
- v.4 Heb. 5:6, 10
- 118:22 Mt. 21:42

divided kingdom

His Appearances

- 1 Kings 19:5-6 To Elijah in the wilderness.
- 2 Kings 1:3-4 To Elijah in sending him to Ahaziah's messengers.
- Hosea 12:4-5 Referring back to Jacob wrestling with Him.
- 2 Kings 19:35 Slaying the 185,000 Assyrians
- 2 Chron 32:21 “
- Is. 37:36 “
- Is. 63:9 Refers back to Him in the pillar.

Prophecy – The book of Isaiah has been referred to as the Gospel of Isaiah because it has so much about the Messiah in it.

- 2:3-4 Come...He will judge, His kingdom.
- 4:2-6 The Branch, His rule.
- 7:14 The virgin birth.
- 9:6 The Messiah, v. 7 His rule
- 11:1 The Shoot
- v. 2-3 The Messiah, 3-9 The Messiah's rule, 10 Messiah, 11-12 His rule
- 22:22 The Key of David
- 27:6 His rule
- 28:16 The Messiah
- 35:8-10 His rule
- 40:3-5 His rule, 10-11 The Messiah
- 42:1-4 The Messiah and His rule, 6-7 The Messiah and His rule
- 49:6 The Light, 22-23 His rule
- 52:9-all of chap. 53 His passion.
- 55:5 His rule
- 60 His rule
- 61:1-9 The Messiah and His rule

the exile

His Appearances

- Dan. 3:25,28 Saving the three men.
- Dan. 6:22 Saving Daniel.

Prophecy

- Dan. 9:24-27 The Messiah and His work.

Type

- Ez. 34:23-24 Comparing David with The King.

The return

His Appearances

- Zech. 1:11 In a vision among the Myrtle trees.
- Zech 3:1-10 In a vision with Joshua and satan. Possibly also 4:1f.
- Zech. 12:8 The promise of victory and glory with Him before them.
- Mal. 3:1 The promise of the coming of Him of the covenant.

Prophecy – Zechariah is the book in this period that proclaims the Messiah and His rule in such detail.

- 2:9-12 The Messiah and His rule
- 3:8-9 The Messiah and His passion
- 6:11-15 The Messiah and His rule
- 8:7, 23 His rule
- 9:9-10 The Messiah and His rule
- 11:12-13 His passion
- 12:10 His rule, Jn. 9:34
- 13:1 His rule, v. 7 His passion Mt. 26:31
- 14:9 His rule

Type

- Zech. 6:11 Joshua as a type of the Messiah

Conclusion

This cannot be considered a complete or exhaustive study. Yet as far as it goes it reminds us of the Messiah or Christ in the Old Testament. ('Messiah' is the Hebrew and 'Christ' is the Greek for the anointed one). In eternity before ever the world began the Trinity decided upon the method of salvation of man. Throughout the Old Testament more and more on His story unfolded. In the New Testament we see the fulfillment and carrying forward of His gracious rule into all the world. The Bible is completely interconnected as

book after book discloses to us the story of salvation with detailed facts and fulfillment. The books are interwoven together as they reinforce the points of the message with each others citations. As we have seen in the passages above, He is our Prophet, Priest and King in the Old Testament Scriptures as well as in the New. He is the first and the last and everything to us. We have searched the Scriptures and they are they which testify of Him. To Him alone be all glory.