



The Christ Foretold

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled, Lesson 1

Forward

The early Christians had a powerful weapon to convince Jews that the Jewish Jesus was the Savior God had promised their race. They simply pointed out the prophecies which Jesus fulfilled!

Paul was an expert in this:

We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

*'You are my Son;
Today I have become your Father.'*

The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

So it is stated elsewhere:

'You will not let your Holy One see decay.'

For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay."

Acts 13.32-37

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead.

Acts 17.2-3

Paul, however, was not alone in this.

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

*'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.'*

*Who can speak of his descendants?
for his life was taken from the earth.'*

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8.32-35

Where could they have gotten this habit?

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled."

Luke 18.31

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that they prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24.25-27

Let's take a look at Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the life of Christ.

A Problem—Seeing What Isn't There



Here's a common comparison.

Read Genesis 22.2, 6-8, 12-14

Can you make some comparisons between Isaac and Jesus?

v.2

v.2

v.6

v.8

Clever people like to see similarities and make connections when there are none. It is satisfying and makes their hearers think they are really learning something, because they've never heard anyone teach something like this before! What a genius their teacher is! Watch out! Preaching and teaching the Word is not an area where invention and discovery is demanded. We are simply to pass on the faith given to us.

But what is the whole point of “Abraham’s Test?”

How did the Lord provide?

If you were looking for a Christ figure in this story, who (or what) would it be?

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament never points to this story as a prophecy of Jesus’ death on the cross. What does that show?

A Problem—Using a Hatchet for a Screwdriver (Allegory)

Allegory is a story told on several levels. A classic allegory is Pilgrim’s Progress, the story of Christian leaving the City of Destruction for Mount Zion. On one level the story is straightforward. On another level everything in the story represents something else to teach a moral lesson. There is but one allegory in the New Testament. And it is clearly pointed out.

Read Galatians 4.21-31

Who are the main characters in this story?

Main Characters	Allegorical Meaning

What is the basic story line?

Fill in the second column of the table. According to Paul, the wives represent something totally different from the story. What do they represent? Who do their sons represent?

What is the meaning of the allegory?

Would you have gotten that out of reading the bare story in Genesis 21.8-13?

Who made Paul so smart?

In the Medieval ages allegory became the approach to Scripture. Every text had a four-fold meaning, the literal meaning, the typological meaning (which referred particularly to the life of Christ), the moral meaning and the anagogical meaning, which dealt with prophecies regarding the future. It produced a wealth of sermons and devotions, few of them insightful. Luther was still using a remnant of this system in the early years of the Reformation (e.g. Noah's Raven and Dove represented Law and Gospel)!

Unless so indicated, take the words of Scripture only in their clearest and simplest possible meaning.

Let's see how far we can go astray!

Let's make up an allegory about this incident. You have to use underlined details and they can't stand for themselves. And it doesn't have to agree with anything the Bible teaches (Luther's "reform" was that allegorical interpretation must not contradict what the Bible teaches).

After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco, king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah marched out to meet him in battle. But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, 'What quarrels is there between you and me, O king of Judah? It is not you I am attacking at this time, but the house with which I am at war. God has told me to hurry; so stop opposing God, who is with me, or he will destroy you.'

Josiah, however, would not turn away from him, but disguised himself to engage him in battle. He would not listen to what Neco had said at God's command but went to fight him on the plain of Megiddo.

Archers shot King Josiah, and he told his officers, 'Take me away; I am badly wounded.' So they took him out of his chariot, put him in the other chariot he had and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried in the tombs of his fathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him.

2 Chronicles 35.20-24

The First Promise (to Send You Home)

But let's end with a real prophecy—the first one!

The Set-up

Tempted by Satan, who has taken bodily possession of a snake, Adam and Eve have eaten the forbidden fruit. When confronted by God they fail to repent.

*So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all the livestock
and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.'*

Genesis 3.15-16

Take a wild guess as to who the “he” is?

So the “you” would be?

What happens to a snake whose head is crushed and to a person bitten by a poisonous snake?

The devil was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth.

John 8.44

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3.8

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2.14-15

What does Genesis 3 predict?

How was that fulfilled in Jesus' life?

Lay out your reasoning.