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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 ($\tau\upsilon\pi\omicron\varsigma$, 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?

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