

# Christ in the Old Testament

## Lesson #1 Introduction

### I. Christianity Rooted in History

- A. In God's acts in history
- B. Church founded on Apostles' Teachings

### II. Christ in the Old Testament Curriculum

### III. The Study of Messianism

- A. Messiah = "Anointed One"
- B. Interpretation Criteria
- C. Unity of God's plan

The Koran, for instance, is a miscellany of disjointed pieces, out of which it is impossible to extract an order, progress, or arrangement. The 114 Suras or chapters of which it is composed are arranged chiefly according to length – the longer in general preceding the shorter. It is not otherwise with the Zoroastrian and Buddhist Scriptures. These are equally destitute of beginning, middle or end. They are, for the most part, collections of heterogeneous materials, loosely placed together. How different everyone must acknowledge it to be with the Bible! From Genesis to Revelation we feel that this book is in a real sense a unity. It is not a collection of fragments, but has, as we say, an organic character. It has one connected story to tell from beginning to end; we see something growing before our eyes: there is plan, purpose, progress; the end folds back on the beginning, and, when the whole is finished, we feel that here again, as in primal creation, God has finished all his works, and behold, they are very good. [James Orr, *The Problem of the Old Testament*, 31-32]

#### D. The Promise-plan of God

1. Prediction or promise
2. Separate or cumulative
3. Temporal or eternal
4. Universal or nationalistic

#### E. Some problems in Messianic interpretation

1. Double Meaning
2. Prophetic ignorance

#### F. Three types of prophecy

1. Direct
2. Typical

## WINTER 2003: CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Week	Date	Topic	Scripture
1	1/05	Introduction: The Study of Messianism	N/A
2	1/12	The Messiah in the Pentateuch pt. 1	Genesis – Deut.
3	1/19	The Messiah in the Pentateuch pt. 2	Genesis – Deut.
4	1/26	The Messiah Before and During the Davidic Monarchy	Judges – 2 Chron.
5	2/02	The Messiah in the Psalms pt.1	Psalms
6	2/09	The Messiah in the Psalms pt.2	Psalms
7	2/16	The Messiah in the Ninth- and Eighth-Century Prophets	Joel, Hosea, Amos, Micah
8	2/23	Missions Fair	
9	3/02	The Messiah in the Eighth-Century Prophets (Isaiah)	Isaiah
10	3/09	The Messiah in the Seventh- and Sixth-Century Prophets	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
11	3/16	The Messiah in the Postexilic Prophets	Haggai, Zech, Malich
12	3/23	Christophanies	Various
13	3/30	Christophanies & Conclusion	Various

**Resources:** The Messiah in the Old Testament by Walter Kaiser

Q. Why study the OT.?

# CHRIST IN THE OT

- ~ Unique feature of Christianity – religious claims rooted in history - God Acting
- ~ We believe based on His acts - beginning w/creation “In the beginning . . .”
  - Time, space, physical universe
  - Adam/Eve
  - The Fall – curse on creation - original sin - everything touched/corrupted
  - Man falls short before God
- ~ How can unrighteous man find favor w/holy God
  - Only God can forgive sin
  - Appease His wrath – Price - “wages of sin is death” (price)
  - Price = sinner pays or someone else subs (not guilty) – no sin
- ~ Who is worthy? - who among men - impossible (w/God all things possible)
- ~ God sent His Son - Virgin (sin man)
- ~ Conclusion – Our faith based on history

JRR Tolkien expressed Christian worldview in fantasy per own statements

Good vs. Evil = who will have dominion

Three partial Christ-figure types – share common traits with Christ

## Gandalf

Prophet/Teacher

1. Spoke on behalf of God
2. Brought guidance @ crucial times
3. Miraculous powers to authenticate prophetic office
4. Carried staff like Moses

## Christ-like traits

~ Ministries essential for triumph of good over evil  
~ Each was elected for his role & accepted lot

~ Each motivated by sacrificial love & duty

## Aragorn

Returning King

5. Direct descendent of royal line once occupied the throne
6. Identity hidden at first only a few knew but more revealed as day approached.
7. Began healing at Minas-Tirith and word spread the the king had returned
8. Like Israel, Gondor possessed literature that prophesied a national deliverer

## Frodo

Priest/  
Suffering servant

9. Meek/lowly hobbit – from obscure rustic area - Shire
10. Ring burden bearer/ personal sacrifice, anguish, suffering
11. To destroy ring must enter Sauron's territory & be abused by his minions
12. By the time he neared destination (Mt. Doom) weak Sam had to carry (cross Mt C)
13. Destruction of ring @ fires of Mt. Doom defeated Sauron – fires of God's wrath @ Mt. Calvary – defeated Satan

# TESTING

## ISRAEL

- 40 Years
- Provided for
- Tested by God
- Were led
- Unbelief, fear, complained, disobeyed
- Died w/no land

## JESUS

- 40 Days
- Deprived of
- Tested by Satan
- Was driven (Spirit)
- Faithful, courageous, confident, obeyed
- Rec'd Kingdom