

Prophecies, Promises, and Typologies of Christ
The Foreshadowing of Christ in the Old Testament
Hebrews 1:1-3

Purpose of this sermon series: To examine the Old Testament through the lens of the cross, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Charles Hadden Spurgeon once famously stated, *“I take my text and make a bee-line to the cross.”* For the next few weeks we will journey through the Old Testament seeing prophecies, promises, and typologies of Christ. As Christians, we believe in the trinity, the doctrine of the three persons of God in one Godhead. God the Father, God the Son (Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. God has always been, and the three persons of the trinity have always been. ***Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*** Theologian Adam Clark notes that the phrase “in our image” means, that all the persons in the Godhead are represented as united in counsel and effort to produce this astonishing creature”, man with body, spirit, and soul. Throughout the Old Testament we see foreshadowing of Jesus Christ in God’s promises, God’s prophecies, and typologies. Let’s define these three terms.

Promises refers to God’s assurance of the coming of a savior and redeemer to undo the curse of sin and the brokenness of this present evil age. An example is found in (Gen. 3:15), God says to the serpent, ***“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel”*** This is a clear promise of the Messiah and the work that He will accomplish. This gospel promise is echoed throughout the Old Testament. Paul writes to the Corinthian church, ***“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Christ]. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory” (2 Cor. 1:20).***

Prophecies A second way Christ is present in the Old Testament is through prophecy that refers to the predictions of the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of Israel and His kingdom. Since we just had Christmas, an example would be the Emmanuel prophecy in Isaiah where the prophet announces, ***“The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14).***

Listen to what Jesus tells the audience concerning prophecies about Him. (Luke 24:25-27) ***“And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”***

Typologies refers to historical people, places, objects, or events which foreshadow Christ and his work in the Old Testament. ***Hebrews 10:1 “For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices***

that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.” The law points us to our Savior, Jesus Christ. It’s a shadow of what is to come in Christ.

| Jesus was foreshadowed in the story of Joseph. Joseph | Jesus |
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| 12 Brothers (Genesis 35:23-26) | 12 Disciples (Matthew 10:1-4) |
| Shepherd boy (37:2) | The Good Shepherd (John 10:11) |
| Foretold of his future reign (37:6-7) | Foretold of His future Kingdom (Matthew 16:28) |
| Stripped of his coat (37:23) | Stripped of His robe (Matthew 27:31) |
| Betrayed by his own brother, Judah, suggested selling Joseph (37:12-28) | Betrayed by His own brother, Judas (Greek for Judah) |
| Sold for silver (37:26-27) | |
| Sold for silver (37:28) | Sold for silver |
| Cast into a pit- only to come out unhurt later (37:22, 28) | Cast into a grave- only to rise again 3 days later (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) |
| Overcame temptation (39:10) | Overcame temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) |
| Unjustly sentenced (39:19-20) | Unjustly sentenced |

Why is studying the promises, prophecies, and typology of Christ in the Old Testament so important?

- 1. It conveys the unity of the Bible.** By recognizing Old Testament foreshadowing of Christ, we see the Bible as a cohesive narrative with a single overarching theme of God's redemption plan centered on Jesus Christ.
- 2. It strengthens our understanding of Christ.** Studying Old Testament foreshadowing of Christ helps us grasp the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection by highlighting the patterns and parallels between the Old Testament figures and Jesus.
- 3. It provides historical context.** Studying this demonstrates that the New Testament is not a sudden shift, but rather a fulfillment of the promises and prophecies found in the Old Testament. History was planned for our good and God’s glory!
- 4. It enhances our faith.** Recognizing the intentional design of God in the Old Testament, in which people and events prefigure Christ, strengthens our faith through His divine plan. (Romans 10:17) It’s hard, as a father not to get emotional when thinking about the willingness of God the Father to sacrifice His own Son (Christ) for my sake. We see this same example with Abraham and Issac, I’m in awe of Jesus!