

Jesus Christ

The Concise Word of the Old Testament

1

Last Week...

- You cannot understand who Christ is apart from what he has done
- You cannot understand what Christ has done apart from who he is
- **The Great Exchange**
 - “He took what was ours to be his very own so that we might have all that was his” (Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ*, 59)

2

How does Jesus relate to the Old Testament?

- **Jesus' own words**

- ²⁵ 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. (Lk 24:25–27)
- ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. (Jn 5:46)

3

Unity between the Old and New Testament

- "Read with earnest care that Gospel which has been conveyed to us by the apostles, and read with earnest care the prophets, and you will find that the whole conduct, and all the doctrine, and all the sufferings of our Lord, were predicted through them" (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 4.34.1).
- Why is this?

4

Jesus is the Word

- “In the beginning was the Word...” (Jn 1:1)
- **Divine Self-Communication**
 - ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. (Jn 1:18)
 - ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and *no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.* (Mt 11:27)
- “It is *only* in Jesus Christ that God is revealed” (Behr, *The Way to Nicaea*, 114)
 - The Word, Jesus Christ, is the same Word spoken by God in the Old Testament

5

Jesus is the Word of God

- "In the beginning was the Word....³ All things were made through him.....⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
John 1:1, 3, 4-5
- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth....³ And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”
Genesis 1:1, 3
- **John 1 is a retelling of Genesis 1**

6

Recapitulation

- “The repetition and grouping of the facts, which the Greeks call **recapitulation**...serves both to refresh the memory of the judge and to place the whole case before his eyes, and, even although the facts may have made little impression on him in detail, their cumulative effect is considerable” (Quintilian, *Institutio Oratoria*, 6.1.1)
- Every Word of the Old Testament is summed up in the person of Jesus
 - A clearer, more concise version of the story
- **The lengthy Words found in the Law, Prophets, and the Writings are summed up in a single person: The Word, Jesus Christ**

7

The Story of Adam

- “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over...all the earth.... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.’ (Ge 1:26-27)
 - Image & Dominion
- The temptation
- Adam sins and is sent out from Eden: “therefore the LORD God sent Adam out from the garden of Eden...”

8

The Story of Adam Recapitulated in Christ

- Jesus is the Second Adam
 - Luke 3 – Genealogy
- Jesus “was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days.”

9

The Temptations

“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (Ge 3:1)	“If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” (Lk 4:3)
“When you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” (Ge 3:5)	⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” (Lk 4:5–7)
⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. (Ge 3:4)	“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ (Lk 4:9–11)

10

Jesus – The Second Adam

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation (Col 1:15)
- “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Heb 1:3)
- “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk 1:32–33)

11

The Second Adam

- ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit....⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Co 15:45–49)

12

Jesus as the Second Moses

- The infant Jesus goes into hiding in Egypt when a paranoid king begins slaughtering innocent children in order to protect his own power
- He goes through the waters of baptism
- He wanders in the wilderness for 40 days
- He goes up on a mountain to re-interpret the Law

13

⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" (Lk 4:4)

² Remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you...³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (Dt 8:2–3)

⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" (Lk 4:8)

¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods (Dt 6:13–14)

¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Lk 4:12)

¹⁶ "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. (Dt 6:16)

14

The Cross

- “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46)
 - He is expressing Israel’s forsakenness due to sin
 - He is asking God to be gracious, not just to him but to us
 - He puts the forsaken man to death
- Jesus rises again
 - He begins a new man through resurrection
 - “Grace came upon us from him, as from a new rootstock, a new beginning” (Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ*, 64)

15

A new rootstock

- Jesus takes our story within himself, but changes the ending
- The root of Adam is diseased – this tree is dying
- The root of Christ is life-giving – this is the Tree of Life

16

The Embodied Word

- Jesus is not JUST doing a better job than Adam, Israel, Moses, etc...
- The people of Israel embodied the Word
 - It formed their thoughts and inner structures
 - In their sin, they were imperfect embodiments
- Now the Word itself took on flesh in the Person Jesus Christ
 - He was the Perfect Embodiment
 - The concise Word of God to us; the concise Word of humanity to God