



Seeing Jesus in the Minor Prophets

Introduction
Luke 24:13-32

Introduction

- Today we are beginning a 13 week series through the minor prophets. Why, you might ask? All too often, the Old Testament is a neglected portion of our Bibles. We know the Gospels and Paul's Epistles fairly well but we probably can't tell you much about Amos, Obadiah, or Zephaniah.
- In our text today, we will discover that the Old Testament is much more than a collection of old books about dead people. We will see that it is far more than a collection of stories that give moral guidance. The Old Testament is all about Jesus and if God graciously gives us eyes to see him revealed in the Old Testament, the minor prophets in our case, I believe our hearts will burn within us just as these two travelers hearts burned within them.

A conversation with Jesus

- ❖ Luke 24:13-14--*That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.*
 - Since we have not been going through the Gospel of Luke verse by verse, let's review what is meant by "things that had happened"
 - 🕒 **The Crucifixion of Jesus.** In Luke 23:26-43, Jesus has already been beaten and scourged so badly that he needed help carrying the cross. Simon of Cyrene was assigned this duty. Soon after, he arrived at the hill of the skull and met the two criminals who would be crucified alongside of him. As he was being raised he was mocked. Jewish leaders taunted him with chants of "let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One." The Roman soldiers mocked him by hanging a sign over him that read "This is the King of the jews." Then one of the criminals next to him cried out to him, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, " Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
 - 🕒 **The Death of Jesus.** In Luke 23:44-49, as Jesus dies, the light of the sun fails, the curtain of the temple is torn in two, and Jesus cries out " Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" Then he dies. No one went away happy that day. It says that "all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts."
 - 🕒 **The Burial of Jesus.** In Luke 23:50-56, Joseph of Arimathea requests Jesus's body so that he can bury him. He placed him in an unused tomb cut in stone.
 - 🕒 **The Resurrection of Jesus.** In Luke 24:1-12, Two women had gone to the tomb to annoint Jesus's body with burial spices yet they found the stone that sealed the tomb rolled away and his body missing. Then, two angels said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." They rushed back and told the eleven what they had seen and heard from the angels but they did not believe them. Peter, followed by a few others (see 24:24), were the only ones who responded to them. They rushed to the tomb and found it just as they had said.
 - These are the "things that happened" that the two men are discussing. The most significant things that have ever happened in history.



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- ❖ Luke 24:15-16--*While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.*
 - We shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that Jesus is left so marred and mangled in his resurrected state that no one could recognize him. Yes, he still bore the mark of the nails (John 20:27), but being disfigured was not what prevented them from recognizing Jesus. Notice that it doesn't say they didn't recognize him. It says their eyes were *kept* from recognizing him. God almighty had apparently decided that it was not yet time for these men to see Jesus, so he kept them from seeing Jesus for who he was until it was the appointed time. This is not the only occurrence of this type of thing either...
 - ❖ Luke 9:43-45--*Jesus said to his disciples, 44 "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand this saying, and **it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it***
 - ❖ Luke 18:31-34--*he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." 34 But they understood none of these things. **This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.***
- ❖ Luke 24:17-19--*And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?"*
 - To put our minds at ease let me assure you that Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection has not left him with amnesia. Rather what I think is happening here is rather tender. Notice their reaction to Jesus asking them what they were talking about. They were sad. They were discouraged and down trodden and Jesus offers a listening ear. He, like a father noticing his son having a bad day, says to these guys, "Why don't you tell me about it."
- ❖ Luke 24:19-20--*And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.*
 - Their description of Jesus might seem quite honoring to some, however it is slanderous compared to the reality of who Jesus really is. They are basically saying the same thing that many who reject Jesus as Lord today say. They are saying "He did some really awesome things, he said some really great things, and God and everybody saw it...BUT, he isn't all that we had hoped for. We thought he might be the Messiah, but he isn't. After all, the guy has been dead for three days now. "
- ❖ Luke 24:22-24--*Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.*



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- Here, they are basically saying, “if the disappointment isn’t bad enough, now we are going to have to deal with foolish rumors started by a bunch of emotional woman that Jesus is alive. Can’t they just let us grieve in peace! Give it up already! It’s over!”
- At this point Jesus interrupts them
- ❖ Luke 24:25-26--*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?”*
- Jesus is pointing out what they ought to already know. The Messiah was supposed to die. Though the Old Testament had already revealed this, they had no clue. So Jesus then goes on to show them that the Old Testament is ALL about him.

It’s all about Jesus

- ❖ Luke 24:27--*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*
- How cool would it have been to have been a part of that Bible Study? To have the Word of God incarnate unpack the written Word of God for you? We can’t offer that, however, we can study the same content. Jesus explained to these men that the Old Testament was actually all about him. For the next twelve weeks, we will study a portion of the Old Testament [the minor prophets] with a goal of learning some of the same truths that these men learned that day. We will investigate...

1. New Testament quotes of the Minor Prophets

- When most Christians think of Old Testament quotes in the New Testament, they will tend to think of Psalms and Isaiah. We think of passages like...
 - ❖ Luke 20:42-43--*For David himself says in the Book of Psalms, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, 43 until I make your enemies your footstool (Psalm 110:1)*
 - ❖ Acts 2:25-28--*For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence (Psalm 16:8-11)*
 - ❖ Matthew 1:22-23--*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14)*
 - ❖ Matthew 3:3--*For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight (Isaiah 40:3)*
- This is understandable since these books are quoted more than any of the other Old Testament books. However, the Minor Prophets have a significant number of quotes as well. In fact, proportionally, the Old Testament books most quoted in the New Testament are the Minor Prophet books of Malachi and Habakkuk.¹


¹ <http://www.crossway.org/blog/2006/03/nt-citations-of-ot>



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2. Typology

 What is typology?

- The most simple way I can think to describe typology is this: *When a reality in the Old Testament intentionally foreshadows an even greater reality in the New Testament.* The thing in the Old Testament is called the *Type* and the greater reality of the New Testament is the *Anti-Type*. A couple of examples would be...

(1) Bread from Heaven

- *OT Type*--Manna was described as bread from heaven...
 - ❖ Exodus 16:4--*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you*
- *NT Anti-Type*--Jesus described himself as the true bread from heaven
 - ❖ John 6:32-33--*Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world*
 - ❖ John 6:48-51--*I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven*

(2) The Serpent and the Cross

- *OT Type*--The Serpent was lifted up and all who looked on it were healed/saved
 - ❖ Numbers 21:9--*So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live*
- *NT Anti-Type*--Jesus is lifted up on a cross and all who look on him and believe will be saved
 - ❖ John 3:14-15--*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

(3) Atonement through blood

- *OT Type*--The offering of the blood of bull and goats
 - ❖ Leviticus 16:11--*Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house*
 - ❖ Leviticus 16:15-16--*Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins*
- *NT Anti-Type*--The offering of the blood of Jesus



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- ❖ Hebrews 9:12--*he [Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption*



What typology isn't

- Typology must never become fanciful imaginings. Just because there are similarities between something in the OT and something in the NT doesn't automatically make it a type. Types are intentional. They are intended to be a foreshadowing of a greater NT reality. We must NOT carelessly declare every little thing in the OT to be a type of something in the the NT. We must be careful to ensure that scripture intends a particular OT reality to foreshadow a greater NT reality.

3. Biblical themes of both the Minor Prophets and Jesus

- For example, in Jonah God shows that he desires to show mercy to more than just the Jewish people. In the New Testament Jesus says...
 - ❖ John 10:15-16--*I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice*
- Another example, In Nahum God demonstrates that he does not take sin lightly. He is a God of wrath who punishes sin...
 - ❖ Nahum 1:2--*The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies*
- In the New Testament we learn that...
 - ❖ John 3:36--*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him*

The reaction to Jesus's Bible Study

- ❖ Luke 24:28-32--*So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures*
- We have already said what we are going to do. We are going to study the Minor Prophets and see Jesus revealing himself to us through these oft neglected Old Testament books. Here in this last portion of the passage is what I hope happens to us as we do so. I hope we find ourselves longing for more of Jesus. I hope we find ourselves urging Jesus strongly saying...
 - ❖ Luke 24:29--*stay with us*
- I hope that Just like these men, our "eyes are opened" to see Jesus. And I hope that as we discover Jesus in the minor prophets, our hearts will truly burn within us as the Holy Spirit opens to us the scriptures.