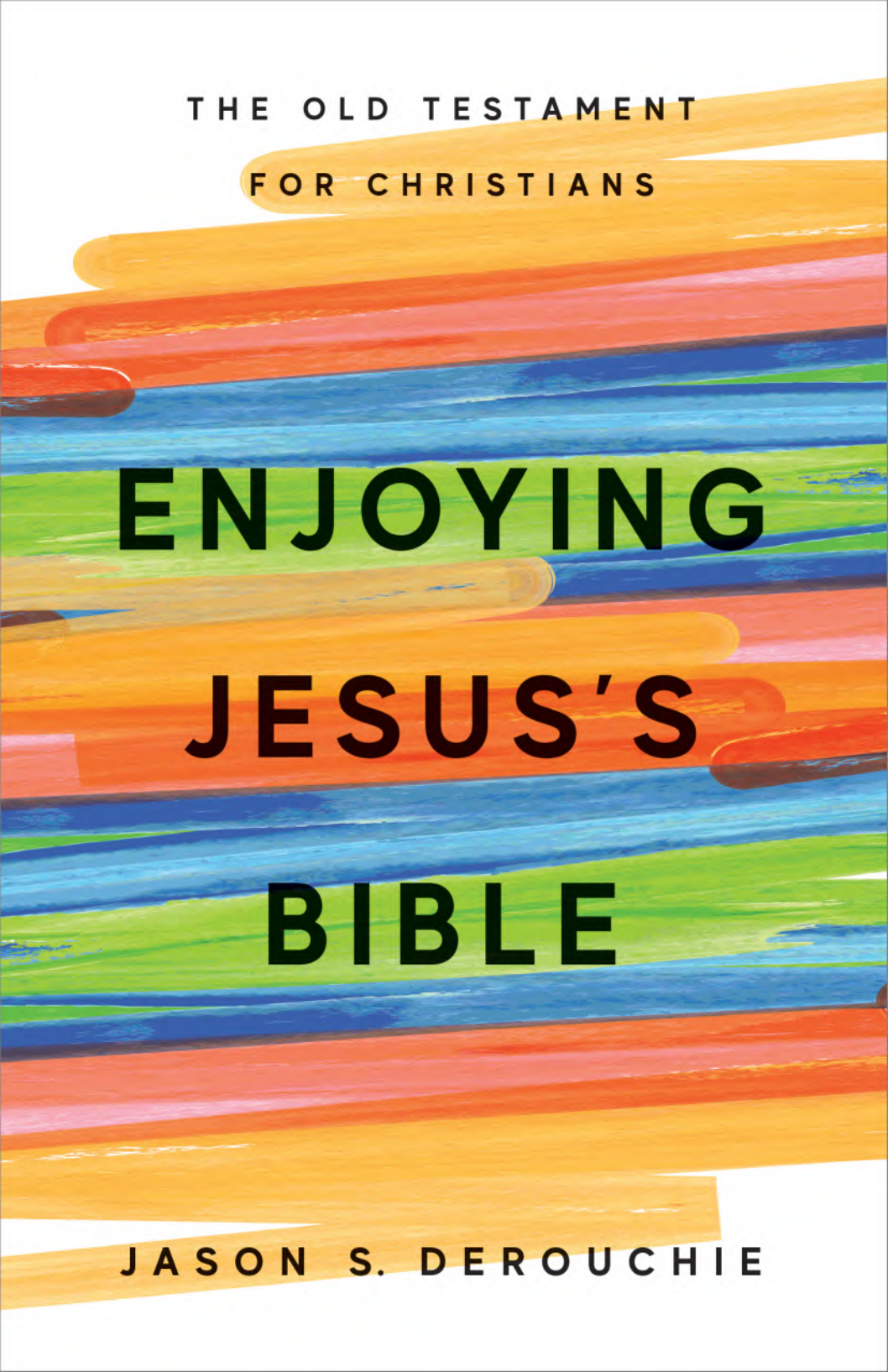




THE OLD TESTAMENT
FOR CHRISTIANS

**ENJOYING
JESUS'S
BIBLE**

JASON S. DEROUCHIE

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“This book will change the way you read the Old and the New Testaments. Beyond this, if you are a pastor or teacher, this book will change the way you preach and teach from the Old and the New Testaments. Thankfully, while Jason DeRouchie’s ideas are big, the words and the chapters are not. I will joyfully wear out my copy.”

Tom Kelby, President, Hands to the Plow Ministries;
President, Table Fellowship Churches

“Jason DeRouchie’s love of the Old Testament is contagious. He loves the Old Testament because it leads him to his Savior. Neglecting the Old Testament results in an impoverished understanding of the words and works of Christ. Even though the Old Testament’s language, culture, and worldview can strike modern readers as foreign or arcane, DeRouchie demonstrates how the Old Testament can be both accessible and awe-inspiring. He does more than merely inform his readers; he seeks to inflame their hearts, beginning with the Law and all the Prophets. DeRouchie serves the global church by opening the treasures of the Old Testament, allowing them to illuminate the New Testament, exalt Jesus, and lead readers to greater faithfulness and deeper worship.”

Joe M. Allen III, Assistant Professor of Missions,
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and
Spurgeon College

“While Christians may confess that the first three-quarters of the Bible is ‘breathed out by God’ (2 Tim. 3:16) and bears witness about Jesus (John 5:39), and although they may affirm that it is ‘profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness’ (2 Tim. 3:16), they often find it difficult to discover in it the kinds of life-transforming riches

that would lead them to be ‘complete, equipped for every good work’ (2 Tim. 3:17). Put another way, it is one thing to believe that the Old Testament is a bottomless mine of life-transforming gospel gold, and it is quite another to experience its riches as one mines deeply. With this book, Jason DeRouchie has handed us a tool for mining, helped us get started, and given us instructions so that we can dig deeply for the rest of our lives. *Enjoying Jesus’s Bible* provides a model for Christ-saturated and biblically grounded reading of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture. Church groups and classrooms will be blessed as they learn how to read, see, hope, and live in light of the Christ-centered message of the first three-quarters of the Bible.”

Ian J. Vaillancourt, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Heritage Theological Seminary; author, *The Dawning of Redemption and Treasuring the Psalms*

“We love to tell the stories of the Old Testament to children but, sadly, often fail to rejoice in it for ourselves. In *Enjoying Jesus’s Bible*, Jason DeRouchie helps us see Christ in this part of God’s word, resulting in a joy-filled faith. I highly recommend this book to you, whether you are a Christian in the pew or a leader in the church. Don’t rush through it. You will see the Old Testament Scriptures as you have never seen them before!”

Conrad Mbewe, Pastor, Kabwata Baptist Church, Lusaka, Zambia; Founding Chancellor, African Christian University

“When it comes to Old Testament studies, Jason DeRouchie is one of this generation’s most trusted authors. In *Enjoying Jesus’s Bible*, he brings his considerable gifts to bear as he walks the reader through how to read the Old Testament in light of

the person and work of Christ. This accessible, reader-friendly volume will biblically inform and spiritually inspire all who read it. Whether you're a new believer or an established scholar, I highly recommend this book."

Jason K. Allen, President, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spurgeon College

"From bacon and tattoos to typology and hermeneutics, *Enjoying Jesus's Bible* covers an incredible amount of ground when it comes to helping us understand and apply 'Jesus's only Bible.' Of particular import is how much more attention and care teachers and evangelists should take as we teach the Old Testament. All Christians stand to benefit immensely as they worship their way through this comprehensive and informative text. Feel your heart leap for joy as you see how Jesus heals you of your spiritual disabilities and purchases for you every spiritual blessing!"

Gloria Furman, author, *Labor with Hope* and *Missional Motherhood*

"Jason DeRouchie is a faithful guide to the Old Testament. He shows that its theological message is that God reigns, saves, and satisfies through covenant for his glory in Christ."

Andy Naselli, Professor of Systematic Theology and New Testament, Bethlehem College and Seminary; Elder, The North Church, Mounds View, Minnesota

"This book is a dream come true. For years, Jason DeRouchie has won my trust. He cherishes both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Messiah himself. And without pretense or fudging, he loves to see the genuine, authentic marriage of the sacred text and its supreme Treasure. Few take both the Old Testament and Christ with such seriousness and contagious joy. Now, in

this book, a world-class professor leverages his learning and skill in the Hebrew language, discourse analysis, and the full text of Scripture to train lay leaders, common Christians, and all careful students of the Bible, not just to read and understand the Old Testament better, but through it to encounter the King himself in the full sweep of his majesty and to delight in him.”

David Mathis, Senior Teacher and Executive Editor, desiringGod.org; Pastor, Cities Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota; author, *Habits of Grace*

“For a Christian, understanding how Jesus is the center and climax of Scripture is of utmost importance. In this volume, Jason DeRouchie channels decades of study to help readers appropriately read the Old Testament as Christian Scripture by examining how Jesus fulfills all of God’s promises. I love this book because it helps believers delight in God’s word and delight in the God who gave us his word.”

Benjamin L. Merkle, M. O. Owens Jr. Chair of New Testament Studies and Research Professor of New Testament and Greek, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Editor, *Southeastern Theological Review*

“If delight is not the first word that comes to mind when you think about the Old Testament, then this book is a gift to you. Jason DeRouchie is a trusted scholar and just the man we need to teach us that the Old Testament prepares for and points to Jesus Christ. This happy discovery awaits all who read *Enjoying Jesus’s Bible*.”

C. J. Mahaney, Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Church, Louisville, Kentucky

“I have benefited from Jason DeRouchie’s work both personally and professionally for decades, and this book represents yet another gift to those who would engage its content. His work is clear, thorough, and compelling. Additionally, his argument is fundamental and essential for the full and proper interpretation of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture. If you are not convinced, repent and reread it.”

Miles V. Van Pelt, Alan Hayes Belcher, Jr. Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages and Director, Summer Institute for Biblical Languages, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson

“Jason DeRouchie’s work will be immensely helpful to a wide variety of readers. It is both accessible and comprehensive. It is practical and well researched. I’m looking forward to hearing of its impact in a variety of contexts around the globe.”

Ryan Robertson, President, Reaching & Teaching International Ministries; Elder, Third Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky

*To Gary Pratico, whose reverence for God
and whose joy in Jesus and his Bible
helped shape the man I am and am becoming*

About the Author

Jason S. DeRouchie is Research Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology and the Rich and Judy Hastings Endowed Chair of Old Testament Studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also serves as Content Developer and Global Trainer with Hands to the Plow Ministries and as a pastor of Sovereign Joy Baptist Church in the northland of Kansas City, MO. He and his wife, Teresa, have been married since 1994.

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Enjoying Jesus's Bible: The Old Testament for Christians

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PREFACE

Three-fourths of our Christian Bible is *Old* Testament, and this was Jesus’s only Scripture. God led the prophets of old to write it “for our instruction” and to serve us (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11; 1 Pet. 1:12). This little book seeks to equip Christian laypeople to delight in the reality that the Old Testament is *Christian* Scripture. It attempts to be immensely practical by addressing:

- *reading* the Old Testament the way God intends (chapter 1),
- *seeing* Jesus where Scripture discloses him (chapter 2),
- *hoping* in all God’s promises for us (chapter 3), and
- *living* faithfully in relation to God’s law (chapter 4).

In this accessible guide, you will discover how to make connections to Christ and practical application to the Christian life from every page of the Old Testament. Studying these texts within their close, continuing, and complete biblical contexts, you will see the books of the Old Testament the way God intends—as relevant parts of your Bible that God uses to make much of Christ and to help you live for him.

This book is an abridgement of my *Delighting in the Old Testament: Through Christ and for Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2024), and I thank Justin Taylor and Crossway for allowing me to publish this shorter work. I also thank my doctoral research assistant Brandon Benziger for helping me distill my larger book into short blog posts (ftc.co), and then I thank my research assistants Kaden Classen, Jonathan Lumley, and Jonathan Zavodney for copyediting help. I am grateful to publisher Kevin Meath and Cruciform Press for allowing me to rework these posts into this little book. I pray that it will help

believers enjoy Jesus's Bible in increasing ways, all for the glory of Christ and the health of his church.

Two decades ago, I shared with John Piper and Justin Taylor my longing to help people revel in God's glory from the initial three-fourths of our Bible. When Pastor John asked for reflections, Justin said one sentence that changed the course of my life: "I hear a lot about the glory of God and very little about Jesus!" These words shook me to the core, and God used them and the following years of sitting under John Piper's preaching, partnering with him and an amazing faculty at Bethlehem College & Seminary, and serving as Sunday School teacher and elder of Bethlehem Baptist Church to reorient my affections and to set me on a path of discovery and awe that I am still walking today. This book contains some fruit of these years of growth.¹

The author of Hebrews charged, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Heb. 13:7). I dedicate this book to Dr. Gary Pratico, whose humility, manhood, mentoring, teaching, counsel, and friendship have throughout my adult life reformed and renewed my own quest for joy in the Lord. From my graduate school days at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary through my formative wrestlings during my doctoral studies and across my more than two decades of academic and local church ministry, his faithfulness to and reverence for our holy God and his true and trustworthy Word have helped me love Jesus more as a man, husband, father, friend, professor, and pastor. Through such men we learn what it means to join those "who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (6:12). May God keep us faithful (13:20–21).

1. To overview this part of my story, see Jason S. DeRouchie, "When My Old Testament Became Christian," *Desiring God*, Aug 7, 2024: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-my-old-testament-became-christian>.

Introduction

Does the Old Testament Really Matter for Christians?

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction. (Rom. 15:4)

Is Christ really part of the Old Testament? Should I as a believer in the twenty-first century claim Old Testament promises as mine? Does the Mosaic law still matter today for followers of Jesus? Is the Old Testament *Christian* Scripture, and if so, how should this impact our understanding and application?

This book seeks to help Christians make connections to Christ and practical application to the Christian life from every page of the Old Testament. More specifically, it seeks to help you:

- by *faith* see and celebrate Christ in the Old Testament in faithful ways,
- rightly *hope* in Old Testament promises through Jesus, and
- genuinely *love* others with the help of the old-covenant law and its fulfillment in Jesus.

To understand the Old Testament fully, we must read it as believers in Jesus, with God having awakened our spiritual senses to see and hear rightly. That is, we read *through Christ*.

Then, as Christians, biblical interpretation reaches its end only after we have found Jesus and experienced him transforming us into his image. We, thus, read *for Christ*.

Some Christians may query, “If we are part of the new covenant, why should we seek to understand and apply the Old Testament?” While I will develop my response throughout this book, what follows are ten reasons why the Old Testament matters for Christians and why “Old” does not imply “unimportant” or “insignificant.”

1. The Old Testament Was Jesus's Only Bible and Comprises 75% of Christian Scripture

If space says anything, the Old Testament matters to God, who gave us his word in a Book. In fact, it was his first special revelation, and it set a foundation for the fulfillment we find in Jesus in the New Testament. The Old Testament was the only Bible of Jesus and the earliest church (e.g., Luke 24:44; Acts 24:14), and it is a major part of our Scriptures.

2. The Old Testament Influences Our Understanding of Key Biblical Teachings

Without the Old Testament, we wouldn't understand the problem for which Jesus and the New Testament supply the solution (Rom. 5:18). We would miss so many features of God's salvation story (9:4–5). And we wouldn't grasp the various types and shadows that point to Jesus (John 1:29; 2:19, 21). Furthermore, some teachings, such as the doctrine of

creation, are best understood from the Old Testament (Gen. 1:1–2:3). Finally, the New Testament worldview and teachings are built upon the framework supplied in the Old Testament.

3. We Meet the Same God in Both Testaments

Note how the book of Hebrews begins: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (Heb. 1:1–2). The very God who spoke through Old Testament prophets speaks through Jesus!

But isn’t the Old Testament’s God one of wrath, whereas the God of the New Testament is about grace? Not exactly. Indeed, both the Old and New Testaments indicate that the true and living God is one of both grace and wrath (e.g., Exod. 34:6–7; Matt. 10:28–31; Rev. 19). We meet the same God in the Old Testament as we do in the New.

4. The Old Testament Announces the Very “Good News” We Enjoy

Paul stresses that the Lord “promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures” the very powerful “gospel of God ... concerning his Son” (Rom. 1:1–3; cf. Gal. 3:8). Foremost among these prophets was Isaiah, who anticipated the day when Yahweh’s royal Servant (the Messiah) would herald comforting “good news” to the poor and broken (Isa. 61:1; cf. 40:9–11; 52:7–10; Luke 4:16–21). Reading the Old Testament, therefore, is one of God’s given ways for us to better grasp and delight in the gospel (see also Heb. 4:2).

5. Both Testaments Call Us to Love and Clarify What Love Looks Like

As with Israel, the Lord calls Christians to lives characterized by love (Deut. 6:5; 10:19; Matt. 22:37–40; cf. Matt. 7:12; Rom. 13:8, 10; Gal. 5:14). However, he now gives all members of the new covenant the ability to do what he commands. As Moses himself asserted, the old-covenant law called for life-encompassing love (Deut. 30:6), and Christians today can gain clarity from the Old Testament on the wide-ranging impact of love in all of life. As we will see, this happens rightly only when we account for how Jesus fulfills every old-covenant law.

6. Jesus Came Not to Set Aside the Old Testament but to Fulfill It

Far from setting aside the Old Testament, Jesus stressed that he came to fulfill it, and he highlighted how the Old Testament's instruction was lastingly relevant for his followers (Matt. 5:17–19). In chapter four we'll consider further the significance of this text, but what is important to note here is that, while the age of the old covenant has come to an end (Rom. 6:14–15; 1 Cor. 9:20–21; Gal. 5:18; cf. Luke 16:16), the Old Testament itself maintains relevance for us in the way it (a) displays the character of God (e.g., Rom. 7:12), (b) points to the excellencies of Christ, and (c) portrays for us the scope of love in all its facets (Matt. 22:37–40).

7. Jesus Said That All the Old Testament Points to Him

Jesus himself said, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me” (John 5:39; cf. 1:45; 5:46–47). Then, following his resurrection, he opened his disciples’ minds “to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem’” (Luke 24:45–47; cf. 24:27; Acts 26:22–23; 1 Cor. 2:2). A proper “understanding” of the Old Testament will lead one to hear in it a message of a suffering and resurrected Messiah and the mission his life would generate.

8. The New Testament Authors Expect Us to Read the Old Testament

The New Testament often cites the Old Testament in ways that call us back to look at the original context. For example, Matthew 27–28 portray Christ’s tribulation and triumph at the cross by recalling Psalm 22 many times. Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1 when he declares, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46). In stating, “And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots” (Matt. 27:35), Matthew alludes to Psalm 22:16, 18, which reads: “They have pierced my hands and feet.... They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” To fully understand their words, the New Testa-

ment authors call us back to the Old Testament through their quotations and allusions.

9. The New Testament Authors Recognized That God Gave the Old Testament for Christians

Regarding the Old Testament prophets, Peter indicates, “It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you” (1 Pet. 1:12). Similarly, Paul was convinced that the Old Testament authors wrote *for* new-covenant believers—those following Jesus on this side of his death and resurrection. “For whatever was written in former days was written *for our instruction*, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4; cf. 4:23–24; 1 Cor. 10:11).

10. Paul Demands That Church Leaders Preach the Old Testament

Significantly, Paul was referring to the Old Testament when he spoke of the “sacred writings” that are able to make a person “wise for salvation” and of the “Scripture” that is “breathed out by God and profitable” (2 Tim. 3:15–16). Knowing this fact colors our understanding of his charge in 2 Timothy 4:2–4. In short, Paul believed Christians like Timothy needed to preach the Old Testament to guard the church from apostasy. While we now have the New Testament, we still must study, practice, and teach the Old Testament like Jesus and his apostles did for the good of God’s church.

Conclusion

Enjoying Jesus's Bible seeks to supply believers with an interpretive framework and guide for rightly handling the Old Testament as God's Word for Christians (2 Tim. 2:15–17). It approaches the Old Testament *through Christ and for Christ*. The book gives one chapter to each of four important questions that relate to different spheres of the Christian life. Because all the Bible is God's Word and the believer's authoritative guide for faith and practice, chapter 1 guides Christians in *reading well* and seeks to answer, "How can Jesus help Christians interpret the Old Testament?" Chapter 2 addresses *seeing well* as God intends and responds to the query, "How does Jesus's Bible testify about him?" Chapter 3 covers *hoping well* in God's promises and answers, "How does Jesus secure every divine promise?" Finally, chapter 4 tackles *living well* in alignment with God's instructions and considers, "How does Jesus make Moses's law matter?" Keep reading to enjoy Jesus's Bible better!

One

Reading Well

How Does Jesus Help Christians Interpret the Old Testament?

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets ... prophesied
about the grace that was to be yours....
It was revealed to them that they were serving not
themselves but you. (1 Pet. 1:10, 12)*

The Old Testament has always been Christian Scripture—a collection of sacred, authoritative texts written for Christians to portray God’s greatness and to instill hope in Christ. The Old and New Testaments agree that God originally gave the Old Testament with Christians in mind and that the Old Testament authors themselves recognized what they wrote would be more meaningful for those living in the messianic age of restoration than for those living before it, whether believer or nonbeliever. Furthermore, faith in Christ alone supplies the necessary light for seeing and savoring God’s revelation in Jesus’s Bible, and Jesus’s appearing in salvation history supplies the necessary lens for most fully understanding and appropriating God’s intended meaning in the Old Testament.

New Testament Reflections on Grasping the Old Testament's Message

For Whom Was the Old Testament Written?

According to the New Testament authors, the Old Testament authors knew that they were speaking and writing for new-covenant believers, and they also had some level of conscious awareness about who the Christ would be and when he would rise. With Christ's coming, anticipation gives rise to fulfillment and shadows turn to substance, which means that new-covenant members can comprehend the fullness of the Old Testament's meaning better than the old-covenant rebel and remnant.

Romans 4:23–24, 15:4, and 1 Corinthians 10:11 stress that the Old Testament authors wrote their texts for the benefit of believers living this side of the cross. For Paul, the Old Testament *is* Christian Scripture that does not reach its intended end until fully applied through Christ to the Christian's life.

The apostle said this much to Timothy as well. Speaking about the Jewish Scriptures, he wrote that the “sacred writings ... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15). Thus, Paul asserts, “All Scripture is ... profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (3:16–17).

Based on this fact, New Testament authors frequently cite Old Testament instructions, assuming their relevance for believers today. For example, Paul reaches into the Ten Commandments when addressing children (Eph. 6:2–3; cf. Exod. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) and draws on execution texts from Deuteronomy when speaking about excommunication (1 Cor. 5:13;

cf. Deut. 22:21, 22, 24). Peter also recalls the refrain from Leviticus when he writes, “Be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:15–16; cf. Lev. 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:26). Because we are now part of the new covenant and not the old, there are natural questions that rise regarding how exactly the Christian should relate to specific old-covenant promises or laws (see chapters three and four on these topics). Nevertheless, the point stands that God gave the Old Testament for Christian instruction.

Paul was not explicit as to whether it was only God’s intent, as the ultimate author, to write the Old Testament for our instruction, or whether this was also the human authors’ intent. Peter, however, made this clear when he wrote that “it was revealed to [the Old Testament prophets] that they were serving not themselves but you” (1 Pet. 1:12). He emphasized that the human authors themselves knew that their Old Testament words were principally *not for themselves* but for those living after the arrival of the Christ. Therefore, the Old Testament is more *relevant* for Christians today than it was for those in the old-covenant era.

The Old Testament Prophets’ Understanding of Christ’s Person and Time

In John 8:56, Jesus declared that Abraham eagerly expected the coming of the Messiah. Similarly, Peter believed that David himself anticipated Christ’s coming in Psalm 16 (Acts 2:30–31), and David’s last words affirm that he was hoping in a just ruler who would overcome the curse and initiate a new creation (2 Sam. 23:3–7). Likewise, the writer of Hebrews stressed, “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar” (Heb. 11:13). The Old Testament remnant enjoyed some light; they themselves wrote of the Christ and hoped in him.

On the other hand, Jesus also declared that “many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it” (Luke 10:24). It seems that we should understand Yahweh’s prophets of old as truly seeing God’s beauty and purposes and the hope that awaited them, while also affirming that they did not experience and, therefore, comprehend all that we do in Christ. For them, full disclosure awaited a later day.

First Peter 1:10–12 captures both sides of this interpretive framework. According to Peter, the prophets were themselves studiers of earlier revelation. And under the Spirit’s guidance, they “searched and inquired carefully” to know *who* the Messiah would be and *when* he would appear. While they may not have known Jesus’s name, they had a general sense of the type of person he would be and of when he would come, and they often learned this from studying the Scriptures (e.g., Ps. 119:2; Dan. 9:2). Revelation did indeed progress from the Old to New Testaments, but the development was often from conscious prediction to realized fulfillment, not simply prediction of which only God was originally aware but which we now recognize retrospectively.

The New Testament testifies that the Old Testament authors usually understood their end-time visions, truly hoped in the Messiah, and knew something of when he would come. Furthermore, interpreters should expect that the biblical authors’ use of previous Scripture organically grows out of the earlier materials themselves, never contradicting them, because all Scripture comes from God (2 Tim. 3:16) and the prophets “searched and inquired carefully” (1 Pet. 1:10) and made Spirit-led interpretations (2 Pet. 1:20–21).

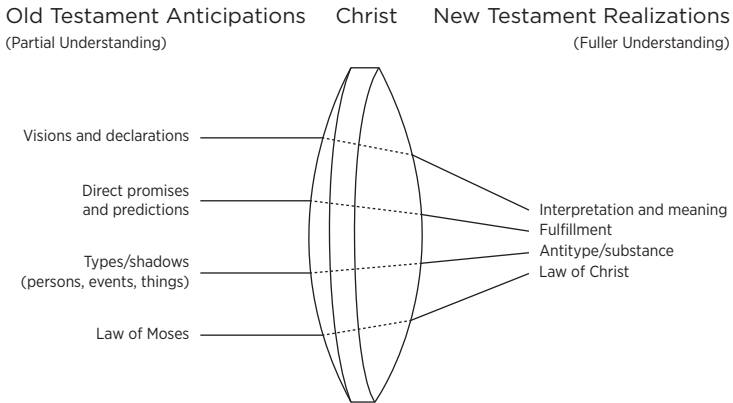


Figure 1.2. Interpreting the Old Testament through the Lens of Christ

Conclusion

Both the Old and New Testament authors affirm that Jesus’s only Bible—the Old Testament—is Christian Scripture. God intends that we interpret it as such and not as if Christ has not come. We must read the Scripture forward, backward, and forward again. The Old Testament prophets knew they were writing for new-covenant saints living in the days of the Christ. Bound up in the gospel of Jesus Christ is the revelation of a “mystery that was kept secret for long ages but ... through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations” (Rom. 16:25–26).

A relationship with Jesus is essential for rightly interpreting the Old Testament, for through him God enables understanding. By turning to Christ, “the veil is removed” (2 Cor. 3:16). The *light* of Christ supplies us the needed spiritual sight for understanding the things of God, and the *lens* of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection provides the needed perspective for fully grasping the Old Testament’s meaning. God wrote the

Old Testament for Christians, and he enables believing interpreters to grasp more fully than others both the meaning and the intended effect of the initial three-fourths of the Christian Scriptures. Jesus's Bible still matters for Christians.

Two

Seeing Well

How Does Jesus's Bible Testify about Him?

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus]
interpreted for them in all the Scriptures the things
concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)*

Having embraced Jesus as the necessary light and lens, we are able to begin interpreting the Old Testament for what it is—Christian Scripture. Jesus is the one *through whom* and *for whom* we read the Old Testament. This chapter considers how Jesus's Bible truly “bears witness” about him (John 5:39). He said in every part of the Old Testament there were things “concerning himself” (Luke 24:27), and he highlighted that “to understand the Scriptures” means one sees a portrait of the Messiah's tribulation and triumph and the global saving mission he would generate (24:45–47). Is that what you see when you read the Old Testament?

Rightly seeing and celebrating Christ in the Old Testament requires a multi-form approach that accounts for Jesus's place within all of God's purposes in salvation history. This chapter overviews the biblical storyline, highlighting how it climaxes in Christ. It then supplies five principles for interpreting the Old Testament, notes three overlapping contexts that should guide all biblical interpretation, and then adds six more potential ways to magnify Jesus faithfully from his own Scriptures.