

LD 6; Luke 24:25-27; Luke 24:36-44; Identifying our Substitute in OT I. Specific Promises and Prophecies II. Types and Shadows III. General Motifs IV. Offices

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, can you find Jesus in the OT? If you were to go and search for Jesus in the OT- where would you look? Well, today we are going to do just that. It is quite a task- but we are going to take a bird's eye view of how and where we can see Jesus in the OT. Last week we saw the possibility of getting a substitute. It is possible- one door remains open. He must be true man and very God- but there is a way for us to escape the punishment that we deserve. But as of yet- we have not heard His name! In fact, we have not read the name of Jesus in the Catechism after QA 1. But today we will find His blessed name as we consider the content of the gospel. Our focus is going to be on QA 19- where do we come to know the good news- His name- the identity of the substitute who can rescue and deliver us? The answer is- He is found in the gospel revealed in God's word. The gospel is the good news of how we can be saved from our sin and misery. Now you may be thinking that the gospel is something that is specifically found in the gospels- as in the gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But as we find in this answer- the gospel is in fact already revealed in the OT. So as Jesus did in Luke 24- we are going to see how the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms all speak of Jesus! Indeed, as we study the OT we find out that these OT books are all speaking of Jesus! We can see both His person and His work here revealed. So we consider this theme: Jesus Christ reveals Himself in the OT by opening the minds of His disciples. And the application will be for us to grow in our love for Jesus as we marvel at the way in which the OT points to His coming!

I. Specific Promises and Prophecies

In our first point, we will see how Jesus is revealed in the OT by way of specific promises and prophecies. Now this is perhaps the easiest way in which we can discern His person and work in OT. It has been estimated that there are over 300 direct prophecies made in the OT that Jesus fulfilled. We are not going to consider them all- only the major highlights. We start as our QA does- God Himself began to

reveal the gospel already in Paradise. We have the direct promise given to Adam and Eve in Gen. 3. After the fall, the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. Who is this enemy crushing child- born of the woman? It is Jesus- who was born of the virgin Mary- who saw Satan fall like lightning and who will soon crush Satan under our feet as well! But we also have the specific promises made to the patriarchs- as when Abraham was promised that all the nations of the world would be blessed through his seed. Or when Abraham reassured Isaac that God Himself would provide the Lamb. Going on in Dt. 18- Moses comforted the people by promising that God Himself would raise up for them another prophet like Moses from among their ranks. So we have a coming Israelite who would comfort and lead God's people- a prophet like Moses himself. We have the promise of a virgin that will give birth to a son whose name will be Immanuel- Isaiah 7. One whose name will be wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father and Prince of Peace as Isaiah 9 continues. He will, as Isaiah 53 says, bear our burdens. Securing both our forgiveness and our righteousness. Anointed by the Spirit to preach the good news to the poor as Isaiah 61 teaches. So you can see, there are many different aspects of His work spoken of- His suffering and work of healing. Preaching and leading- all the way to the nature of His lowly birth in the city of David as Micah records. But this is only the first way in which we read the gospel in the OT- there are also types and shadows. As QA 19 continues- the gospel was foreshadowed by the sacrifices and ceremonies of the Law.

II. Types and Shadows

Going back to Gen. 3, the first shadow of a sacrifice is found in the clothing secured for Adam and Eve. Our first parent's nakedness is covered as God provided the skin of an animal- there is blood shed in order for man's nakedness and shame to be taken away- right there in the beginning. But this grows into a complex system of ceremonies and rituals as unfolded in the books of Moses. We considered this last week as we looked at Heb. 10. With the shedding of blood, the substitute takes the place of the sinner and dies in their stead. But the types and shadows go well beyond the altar and blood. The very

articles of the tabernacle and temple are each rich in meaning- and point to the future work of Jesus Christ. The golden lampstand- representing the glory of God's presence and the truth He reveals- fulfilled in Jesus who is the light of the world! The wash basin- in Jesus cleansing and washes away all our sins. The showbread- Jesus being the bread of life and our heavenly manna. The golden censer and the incense- Jesus mixing His prayers with ours as our intercessor. Even the veil that separated the inner and the outer holy place represented the body of Jesus- when the veil or curtain was torn in two, we find a fulfillment in His body that was broken by which peace was made. And more could be said about the golden serpent that was lifted up in the wilderness- the rock that was struck so that water might flow forth- even the cloud and fiery pillar that pointed to the direction and shade provided by the coming Messiah. All of these are shadows- pictures of the reality the Jesus would fulfill.

III. General Motifs

Added to these shadows, we have general motifs and movement. Think of major historical events. How does the work that God performed within the house of Israel set the stage for the work Jesus would perform within the church? We can start with righteous Noah- a man who saves His family from judgement and brings them safely to a New Creation after the old is destroyed. With Israel as a nation- you find that she was in bondage- in the house of slavery- only to be released from that bondage after the blood of the Passover Lamb was shed- having been baptized in the water of the Red Sea- she as a people were brought into the Land of Promise- the land flowing with milk and honey. You have the victory over the armies of darkness with Joshua at the helm. Or the Judges who rescued and delivered those oppressed. The righteous kings who ruled with equity- under which the people enjoyed blessings and peace. The city of Jerusalem a picture of the New, heavenly Jerusalem that is being build by Jesus and kept in heaven for us until that day. There is the path of victory that is only attained after suffering. The way to victory is through suffering- the crown comes only after the cross. Think of Elijah and Elisha- how their ministries told the story of suffering and want only to give way to victory and life! That it is

possible for the dead to be raised, the sick to be healed, the hungry to be fed, the barren to give birth. What was impossible for man- God does again and again! For all things are possible with God. Each pointing to the work Jesus did while on the earth- work He is doing as the good news goes out and the lost are gathered- and promises of what He will do one day when He returns! The healing of the land, the overthrow of the armies of darkness, the gathering of the lost, raising the dead, healing the afflicted, wiping away tears. These are all motifs- signs of what Jesus will do one day again!

IV. Offices

And finally, we think of the major offices in the OT. We can be brief here because we will take up these offices again in LD 12- that of prophet, priest and king. The OT offices by which God used men to lead, teach and bless His people are in their own ways reminders of what Jesus is currently doing. Moses, Himself, spoke of a prophet that God would raise up after him in Dt. 18. King David was told of a coming Son who would sit on his throne- one whose kingdom would have no end in II Sam. 7. One of David's sons would build the temple- ruling over a kingdom that would endure for all time. Well then, who is this greater son of David who is building God's house and ruling over an everlasting Kingdom? What about the prophet who would speak the last words- for in the past God spoke in many ways at various times. But in these last days He speaks to us by way of His Son- as Heb. 1 says. It could be said that the book of Hebrews is an apologetics on the offices of Jesus Christ. Jesus is better than Moses- like Melchizedek of old. He is the great High Priest- the one who was sacrificed once for all.

Going back to our reading from Luke 24:44- we find that Jesus uses the OT to prove His identify. To show the disciples how the OT is all about Him- and fulfilled by Him. The Law and the Prophets and the Psalms must all be fulfilled. Jesus is using the 3-fold division of the OT to say- basically- the entire OT is pointed to me! The Law is the books of Moses. The Prophets cover the Major and Minor Prophets. And the Psalms refers to the wisdom literature and other writings such as Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and

Song of Solomon. In the Psalm you will find the very words of Jesus- such as Psalm 22. You will find the life of Jesus illustrated- the blessed man of Psalm 1. You also find words that praise Jesus spoken by the saints. Even words of complaint and sorrow which are the cries of the heart longing for Jesus to return and make all things right and new! The Song of Solomon is a love song to Jesus from the lips of the church and a love ballet to the bride of Christ sung by her groom, Jesus. In all these various ways, the OT brings Jesus to our eyes as we behold His glory. Our hearts are moved to love Jesus more- to appreciate His work- to rejoice in the good news of great joy! That a Savior has been born, His name is Jesus- our savior! The Christ and our Lord!

To conclude, it has often been said that the OT is Christ concealed while the New is Christ revealed. But with a little mediation, we can see the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ come to light. I sometimes wonder why the whole conversation and discussion was not recorded in Luke 24. What did Jesus say- which OT prophecies and signs did He point out? However, we do have the books of Hebrews and Revelation which in many ways does answer the question of how to see Jesus in the OT. Jesus is the last Adam, the prophet spoken of by Moses, the lion of Judah and the Lamb of God! The greatest Son of David- King of Kings! Jesus Christ reveals Himself in the OT by opening the minds of His disciples. So may our minds be opened to see Jesus as we read the OT as well- so that we might praise Him for the good news- and thank Him for being our substitute who delivers us from the judgement we deserve and restores us to a place of blessing and peace with our God!