

Luke 24:13-27; 44-45; I Peter 1:10-12; Seeing Jesus in the OT I. In the Books of Moses II. In the Prophets III. In the Writings

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, do you know the point of the OT? What is the focus of the entire Bible? Well, understanding how the OT and the NT are related- and if they have a central point and theme, will help us understand the various texts included within each section. Just as many teachers ask their students to retell the theme of a book they have read, so we as Christians will be greatly aided if we can identify the theme of Scripture. Today, as we return to our consideration of Luke, we find Jesus walking and talking with His disciples. Having been raised, He now appears to two disciples who are on the road to Emmaus. Although they did not recognize Him because their eyes were kept from seeing, what Jesus is going to do is in fact reveal Himself to them by taking these disciples to the OT. Our sermon is going to be a little different this morning as we are going to focus on v. 27 and 44. How exactly are we to see Jesus in the OT? When Jesus explained the Old Covenant to them- He was proving His presence in the OT. Proving again what must be done to Him- and what He must do as we saw briefly last week. As it has often been said, the NT is contained in seed form within the OT. There is a direct link. Jesus is not hidden in the OT in some obscure way; rather He is the entire point of the OT! As you may know, the Hebrew OT Scriptures are divided into 3 sections, the first section is the writings of Moses or the Law, the second section is the prophets and the third section is the other Writings and books of Wisdom. So these 3 sections of the OT make up our 3 points. In v. 27 Jesus interpreted- or he opened, explained and unfolded the OT so prove how the OT is all about Jesus. These 39 books speak to His person and work. So this morning we consider this theme: Jesus Christ reveals that He is the point and fulfillment of the OT for the comfort of His people.

I. In the Books of Moses

We begin with the first 5 books of the OT- the books of the Law or the Books of Moses. As Jesus began in v. 27- we too start with Moses. Jesus said as much in John 5:46, if you believed Moses you would have

believed in me, for He wrote of Me. So how- or in what way, did Moses write of Jesus? Well, we can look at the over arching themes of Genesis to start. Creation, fall and redemption promised find their answer in New-creation, forgiveness of sins and redemption accomplished. Genesis 3:15 is called the Mother Promise- speaking of one who will be born of a woman who will crush the head of the serpent. Or in Exodus we find a people born into slavery who are set free as they passed over by the destroying angel. Those who are under the blood of the Passover Lamb are spared- God's people are lead out of bondage and eventually are brought safely to the Promised Land of Rest. Added to this overarching theme in Exodus, we have the introduction of the Law which is a way in which God's people are set apart and identified in this world. The very same Law that Jesus expounds upon in His sermon on the Mount. We also have the introduction of the sacraments. With circumcision, the old sinful flesh is cut off and removed just as in Baptism the old man is put off and our sins are washed away. In fact, as we have read in our form for Baptism today, the work of baptism was prefigured in the sending of the flood and the crossing of the Red Sea. Those who are in Jesus and who follow Jesus as their Mediator are rescued from the waters of destruction! Read I Cor. 10:1-4. As I Cor. 10:1 puts it, our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and the sea- all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock, and that Rock was Christ. So when we read of the flood account, or the crossing of the Red Sea, we should be thinking of Christ and the deliverance that He provides. And when we read of the water from the Rock and the heavenly manna provided, we should be seeing Jesus and His provision! His body and blood given for our true food and drink as we will see again tonight! This is not reading too much into the OT- for both Jesus in our passage and Paul in I Cor. 10 say as much- Jesus was the whole point of these events in Israel's history! Moving on, we can think of the Ceremonies and Laws in Leviticus- of the OT offices of prophet, priest and King. To understand who fulfills the necessary sacrifice- and who is the perfect prophet, priest and king- we need only read the book of Hebrews that reveals Jesus as the final, perfect

and sufficient sacrifice and the perfect Anointed One our Christ! So the sacrifices are a constant reminder, there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. And Jesus has now been offered once for all for the complete forgiveness of all our sins! The Tabernacle and Temple are speaking to the coming together of God and man. Where God and man can come together in peace! As Jesus is our Immanuel- He is the way in which God and man can come together. The clean and unclean foods- ceremonial washings- are all pointing back to purity man had before the fall; and the need for purity remains among God's people- so this purity is something that is secured and provided for us by Jesus Christ! He is holy- so that those in Him might now be holy as well. So that would be a broad overview of the 5 Books of Moses and how they relate to Christ.

II. In the Prophets

Next we have the Prophets- or the 18 Prophetic books. Some of these books are divided into two within our number while the Hebrew Bible keeps them together. When it comes to the prophetic writings, sometimes we see glimpses of Christ in the person and work of the prophets, and at other times we see Him in the words of the prophets. We read a few minutes ago from I Peter 1:10 which reads, the prophets who prophesied were inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicated when he predicted the suffering of Christ and subsequent glories. So although the prophets themselves were not always certain in their own minds- they were still inspired by God to speak of the person and work of Christ, both His suffering and subsequent glories. So the prophets were speaking about the coming Christ. For example, we all remember Isaiah 7:14 which says that a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call His name Immanuel. Or consider a few from the prophet Zechariah. 9:9- see your king comes to you righteous, victorious and riding on a donkey- speaking of Palm Sunday. Zechariah 13:7- strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered which was fulfilled when the disciples fled from Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Or Zech. 12- they will look upon the one whom they have pierced which was fulfilled on the cross. As you may know, there are over 300 direct prophecies in the

OT that Jesus fulfilled during His earthly ministry. Consider even what we read of in Acts 8- as the Ethiopian Eunuch was reading in Isaiah 53, he asked Philip- who was Isaiah writing about? Was this suffering servant who was humiliated, struck and killed- was that Isaiah or someone else the Eunuch asks? And Philip responds by opening up the OT Scriptures and he reveals the good news about Jesus. So the Holy Spirit was actively speaking through the Prophets- revealing things that were yet to come. Things that would only be clearly seen and understood after Jesus came and fulfilled them.

III. In the Writings

As we come to our third point, we find that Jesus is also the point, fulfillment and focus of the other Writings and Wisdom literature of the OT as well. Now these books would include the remaining 13; specifically books such as Psalms, Proverbs and the Song of Solomon. Many of these books form what is called Wisdom Literature- or words of the wise as many were written by David and Solomon. It is interesting to note that I Cor. 1:24 says that Christ is both the power and the wisdom of God. So Jesus Christ is identified as the wisdom and power of God- it is by this Wisdom with a capital "W" that the world was made. He is the truth. The way in which these Wisdom writing reveal Jesus is multifaceted. Sometimes we have the direct words of Jesus recorded- such as in the Psalms as we have seen in recent weeks. His words of sorrow and suffering in Psalm 22- Why have you forsaken me. Or the sting of being rejected and betrayed by Judas as found in Psalm 41. Even the fact that He would be the stone rejected by the builder but has now become the cornerstone as we read in Psalm 118. Sometimes Jesus person is explicitly found as in Psalm 1 as the righteous man that does no evil- or as we find in Psalm 2- the Son who must be kissed or else He will terrify you in His wrath. Even Job 19 refers to His redeemer that Lives who will one day stand upon this earth in the flesh- and He will also raise the flesh of Job up on that last day as well. The book of Proverbs reveals the wise way of life and contrasts that way with the path that leads to death. There is a way of blessings and peace- but there is also a way of curse and death. Who is the one that reveals the way to life and life everlasting? In whom do we find peace? If the

fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, who gives us this fear? How can we know the Lord if He is not revealed to us by His Son? And even with the Song of Solomon, we know that our human marriages are fallen, earthly and temporary. In this beautiful book on marital bliss, there is no earthly marriage that rises to this standard of perfect bliss. There is a heavenly marriage; a perfect bride groom and a lovely bride who will one day celebrate eternal union at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb! You see, even these Wisdom Books speak of Christ and the gospel! Jesus is our wisdom Incarnate- truth embodied in a person! Jesus Christ is the prism by which light in all its colors come to find unity! Whatever book of the OT- as we grow to understand the color and contour of that individual book- we know that Christ is the one who brings unity and purpose to all of Scripture!

Before we conclude, we have to understand why this explanation of Jesus was so comforting. As our theme states: Jesus Christ reveals that He is the point and fulfillment of the OT for the comfort of His people. Why would it be comforting to these 2 disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus? Why would this explanation, opening and unfolding of the OT be a source of blessing and peace to them? Well, as we have seen, the OT reveals what Jesus has and is doing! The saving of His sheep- the rescue of the lost- the deliverance from bondage- the provision in the wilderness- the safe arrival at the promised Land; these are all meant to comfort His disciples! God keeps His promises- Jesus has fulfilled His mission on earth- the lost sinners are being saved! There is hope for them- and there is hope for us! On the road to Emmaus these men were questioning- doubting! We had hoped that Jesus was going to redeem Israel- they said in v. 21! So to comfort them, Jesus takes them back to the OT to prove how Jesus has fulfilled and secured the redemption of Israel! He needed to suffer and die- and He needed to rise again! He proves His identity and the nature of His work- so that doubts would be answered and fears alleviated! And that is exactly what happens- as v. 32 goes on to say -their hearts burn within them and they are filled with joy, hope and faith! So as we read the OT- we too have our eyes opened by the Holy Spirit! And as we come to understand how the OT is pointing to Jesus- and how these promises and

types have been fulfilled- our hearts are filled with joy and peace as well! What was necessary has been done- what was promised has been fulfilled! He is now our righteousness, life and peace!

To conclude, in Mt. 5:17 Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. It is He who fulfills the promises that God made all those years ago! He is the true, Davidic King- He is the pure and spotless Lamb of God- He is the heavenly manna and the Rock which was struck and from whom healing waters flow. It has been put this way- God announced beforehand in types and shadows, in promises and prophecies, the redemption that He would accomplish through His Incarnate Son! It is this Jesus who provides access into God's presence and bring us entrance into the Promised Land! Jesus Christ reveals that He is the point and fulfillment of the OT for the comfort of His people. Like these two disciples on the road, we need Jesus to teach us by the Spirit to see the OT clearly- and as we do our hearts will be filled with joy and comfort in that all the promises of God find their yes and amen in Jesus our Lord!