

Explaining Jesus from the Old Testament

The following story takes place shortly after Jesus is resurrected from the grave.

Luke 24:13-32 (NIV)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

How would you use the Old Testament to teach about Jesus?

How do the following passages teach about Jesus?

Genesis 3:14-15 (NIV)

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Why is there enmity specifically between the serpent and the woman?

It was through deceiving the woman that Satan brought down mankind and so it is through a woman that God will bring salvation to the world. God prophesied that he would completely defeat Satan and overturn what he accomplished.

It is interesting to note that it will be the woman's offspring, and not man's, as this is a direct reference to the virgin birth.

How did Satan strike the heel of Jesus?

Satan struck Jesus' heel through the putting him to death on the cross.

How did Jesus crush Satan's head?

The very act of dying is what defeated Satan's hold on the world.

Summary:

Satan was already defeated when he warred against God in heaven and was cast down to the earth. He is now filled with wrath, wanting to destroy that which God loves most – us.

By successfully tempting Adam and Eve to sin, mankind is now eternally separated from God and Satan has won in that regard by taking us down with him. Dying in our sin is the hold Satan now has on us; death is now the enemy we must all face.

When Jesus died and then defeated death by rising to new life, he accomplished several things. First of all, he provided his death as a substitute for ours making forgiveness possible. Second, by rising to new life, through his Spirit we also are given new life in relationship with God. Jesus made it possible for us to escape the judgment Satan conspired to bring upon us through sin. Now, anyone who chooses to receive for forgiveness may do so freely and Satan's rule is defeated in their lives.

What is the one danger for a serpent when it bites a heel?

That heel is eventually going to come down and when it does it will crush the serpent's head. **The irony is** that the very act of the serpent killing its prey is what causes its own destruction in the end. Had the serpent not attacked the heel, it would not have been defeated.

Had Satan paid more attention to this prophecy, he would have been less motivated to strike at Jesus. He opened the doorway to his own defeat on earth by putting Christ to death on the cross. By Jesus' death, our sins are paid for; by resurrecting to new life he offers us new life and death is forever defeated. The one weapon Satan had to destroy us is now removed from him. The very act of striking Jesus' heel crushed his head.

Colossians 2:15 (NIV)

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

How does it impact you to realize God had this all so thoroughly planned back in the garden?

Why do you think God may have included the following genealogy in the Bible?

Genesis 5:1-32 (NIV)

This is the written account of Adam's line.

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷ And after he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Altogether, Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰ And after he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹ Altogether, Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³ And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶ And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹ And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶ And after he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed." ³⁰ After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Altogether, Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Name meanings often carry significance in the Bible. Write down each of the meanings below.

NAME	MEANING
Adam	<u>Man</u>
Seth	<u>Being Appointed</u>
Enosh	<u>Mortal</u>
Kenan	<u>Sorrow</u>
Mahalalel	<u>Blessed God</u>
Jared	<u>Shall Come Down</u>
Enoch	<u>Teaching</u>
Methuselah	<u>His Death Shall Bring</u>
Lamech	<u>Despairing</u>
Noah	<u>Comfort/Rest</u>

*For an explanation of some of the names: <http://www.bible-codes.org/Names-Bible-Prophecy-Code-notes.htm>

Can you see anything significant about the order of the names?

Man being appointed mortal has sorrow.

Blessed God shall come down teaching.

His death shall bring to the despairing, comfort/rest.

What are some of the implications of this passage?

- 1) **God has a Plan**
God sovereignly oversaw the naming of each child so that a powerful prophetic message could be formed over a 1056 year span from Adam to Noah. God already has the future mapped out. He has guaranteed salvation to be available to us through Jesus Christ.
- 2) **You can have confidence in God's plan due to fulfilled Prophecy**
At times when you start to question the validity of the Bible, fulfilled prophecy gives us assurance.
- 3) **People are the plan**
Everything that God does he does for his people and through his people. God seldom acts apart from people who place their faith in him.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Amos 3:7 (NIV)

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

Prophets then communicated the plan to the rest of God's people.

Genesis 22:1-18 (NIV)

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. ⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

What are some of the parallels of this story to the life of Christ?

Have people share as many insights as they can, then use the following notes to cover any they may have missed.

Isaac's birth was a miraculous birth. (Genesis 15:1-6)

Luke 1:26-27 (NIV)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:31 (NIV)

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Offer your only son, whom you love, as a sacrifice

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The sacrifice is to take place on Mount Moriah

2 Chronicles 3:1 (NIV)

Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah...

Mount Moriah is where Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem, the same region where Jesus was to be crucified as the ultimate sacrifice.

Isaac carried the wood that would bring about his death

John 19:17 (NIV)

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice

John 1:29 (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Isaac was bound

Matthew 27:2 (NIV)

They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Isaac gave no apparent struggle when Abraham bound him

Keep in mind Abraham is well over a hundred years old and Isaac is probably somewhere in his teen years. He could have easily resisted or run away.

Isaiah 53:7 (NIV)

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

God provided a substitute sacrifice

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

What impact does seeing all these parallels have on you?

Why do you think God gave all these pictures of Christ so long before the actual appearance of Jesus?

How do these prophecies provide strength to your faith?

**The entire book of Genesis reveals the person of Jesus Christ in many ways.
In fact, all of the Old Testament scriptures point us to Jesus.**

How might this awareness change your perspective as you read through the Old Testament?