

## EFCA Doctrinal Statement

5/7/18

### Statement 4.1

I think we tend to segment our lives. We, or at least I, divide them into sections rather than as parts of an interrelated whole. Every aspect of our lives connects to and influences every other aspect of our lives. One of, perhaps the core issue in our lives is what we believe about God. A.W. Tozer well said, “**What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.**”

I think we tend to do the same thing with our understanding of God. In particular, I think some of us think of the God of the Old Testament as different than the God of the New Testament. In reality, there is one God with one eternal plan for the redemption of mankind. The Old Testament illustrates and anticipates The Messiah, the “anointed one”, God would provide as our only and all-sufficient provision. He is our provision for sin, but He is much more as well. He is our prophet because He declares and demonstrates God’s truth. **(Hebrews 1:1-3; 3:1-6)** He is our priest because he made the one time all sufficient sacrifice for sin, and He makes intercession for us in heaven. **(Hebrews 5:1-10; 6:19-10:39)** He is our king because He came to establish His kingdom in our hearts, **(Matthew 3:2, 4:17; 9:35)** and will establish His kingdom here on earth and we as His children become part of His kingdom. **(1 Timothy 6:13-16)**

Sometimes we think of Jesus as Messiah as an Old Testament concept or for Jews only. The New Testament authors consistently draw the bridge from the Old Testament, through Jesus, and into eternity. There are a number of Old Testament prophecies to consider, but I want us to consider Peter’s argument in Acts 2 which concluded with the statement in verse 36 “**Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**” Jesus suffered as predicted and according to God’s definite plan. **(Isaiah 53)** Jesus was raised from the dead. **(Psalms 16:8-11; Isaiah 53)** Jesus was exalted and seated at the right hand of the Father **(Psalm 110:1)**

I would encourage you to think through the prophecies regarding the Messiah from the Old Testament, and read the New Testament writers’ accounts considering Jesus’ fulfillment of them. If you read through the book of Matthew and simply look up the references that Matthew gives from the Old Testament, I think you will see a pretty convincing argument.

A related question is, “Why does it matter what the Old Testament says about the Messiah and that Jesus and His followers believed that He was that Messiah?” Can Jesus be the Savior by dying for sin and not be the Messiah of Israel predicted by the prophets? The answer is “No”. God sent Jesus as the only sufficient solution for our sin, because He is the only sufficient solution for our sin. He has always been and always will be the one chosen by God as the perfect Prophet, Priest, and King. He is the Messiah. **(1 Peter 1:20-21)**

Jesus did not come in order to fulfill prophecy. Events don’t happen in order for prophecies to be fulfilled. Prophecies are made so that when things happen they affirm the truth. The prophecies about the coming Messiah were made so that people could and would recognize Him as the “anointed one” sent from God. In essence prophecies are not for the people who hear them. They are for the people who are around to see the fulfillment because it verifies that God ordained the event or the person about which/whom the prophecy is made. **(1 Peter 1:10-12)**

The bottom line is that Jesus is God’s planned and perfect solution for our sin. He is the “anointed one” or “Messiah” sent from God as the **only** solution for our sin. The Old Testament looked forward to Him in anticipation. The New Testament looks back in realization of His coming and His work on our behalf. We live by faith in Him.

**Questions to consider:**

1. What is the significance of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus?
2. Which Old Testament prophecies are the most significant to you? Why?
3. How does each of Jesus' roles of Prophet, Priest, and King impact your life on a regular basis?
4. Read Hebrews 4-10. What do you find as the most significant application of Jesus as our High Priest? How does that impact our daily walk with Him?