Preaching Christ in Genesis

When we preach any book of the Bible, our desire is to point our listeners to God's gracious plan of salvation fulfilled in Christ. So how can we preach Christ from the book of Genesis, from the first glimpse of Gospel hope in Genesis 3:15 to the royal promise of Genesis 49:10, with so much to see in between? It is just one book, but it is such a rich theological book that is well worthy of time in the pulpits of our churches.

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I. Why Christ Should Be Present in Our Preaching of Genesis

A. New Testament authors saw Christ in Genesis

1. Jesus and creation (Gen. 1-2)
    a. Jn. 1:1-3
    b. Col. 1:15-16
    c. Heb. 1:10 (quoting Ps. 102:25)

2. Jesus and Melchisedek (Gen. 14:17-24)
    a. Heb. 5:6 (quoting Ps. 110:4)
    b. Heb. 6:20
    c. Heb. 7:1-28

3. Jesus and Abraham
    a. Jn 8:56-58

B. Christ is the centre of salvation history

1. Jesus saw Himself as the centre
    a. Lk. 24:13-27, 44-49
    b. Jn. 5:39-40, 46-47

2. The Apostles saw Christ as the centre
    a. Rom. 16:25-27 (cf. Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 6:19)
    b. 1 Pet. 1:10-12 (cf. Matt. 1:1-17; Gal. 3:23-29; 4:4-5; Col. 1:25-27)

C. Two Illustrations

1. Mystery revealed

2. Climactic turning point

II. Practical Aids for Preaching Christ in Genesis

A. Pay attention if the text comes up in the New Testament

1. Resources to use

2. Mistakes to avoid

a. Example: Acts 12:24

B. Trace the movement from promise to fulfilment in Christ

1. Examples: Gen. 3:15 and 49:10

2. Mistake to avoid

C. Highlight the promise-shaped patterns of typology

1. Example: Gen. 22

2. Mistake to avoid

D. Consider development through the covenants

1. Example: Gen. 29:31-30:24

2. Mistake to avoid

E. Compare and contrast your text with Jesus Christ and the New Covenant

1. Examples: Gen. 20, 39, and 44

2. Mistake to avoid

F. Remember the people you teach and what they need

1. Different people need different things

2. Mistake to avoid

G. Ask for God's help to understand and believe Scripture

1. Example: Lk. 24:25

2. Mistakes to avoid

III. Questions

IV. Case Studies

A. Creation account (Gen. 2)

B. Abram and Sarai in Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)

C. Abraham and the Three Visitors (Gen. 18)

D. Joseph before Pharaoh (Gen. 41)

Recommended Resources

1. G K Beale, D A Carson, *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*
2. Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Genesis* and *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*
3. Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching*
4. James Hamilton, *Typology: Understanding the Bible's Promise-Shaped Patterns*
5. Brent E Parker, *Typology and Allegory: Is There a Distiction? A Brief Examination of Figural Reading*