

How to Understand Christ in the Old Testament

In recent decades, a growing number of evangelicals have begun to question the messianic basis of the Old Testament. Although Christians agree that the Hebrew Bible anticipates Christ in some form, this is now viewed by some in terms of a general promise, and not direct fulfillment. Consequently, those with a high view of Scripture and the unity of both Testaments need to address this challenge: How messianic is the Old Testament? Did the apostles and Christ correctly interpret the Old Testament when they claimed that everything written about him in the “Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44)?

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1. The ‘Problem’ of the Old Testament

- a. Text
- b. History
- c. Relating the two testaments

2. Current Evangelical Views on the Subject

3. Historic Christian Views

4. Common Exegetical Approaches

- a. Sensus plenior
- b. Midrashic interpretation
- c. Typology

5. The Perspective of Christ and the Apostles (New Testament)

6. Reading the Old Testament with New Testament Eyes of Faith

7. Doing our Old Testament Exegetical Homework

- a. Old Testament trajectories
- b. Literary structure
- c. Inner-biblical exegesis