

# Christ Revealed In All Of Scripture

## The Principles & Practice Of Biblical Theology

Our aim is to give the men an overview of the Bible, and the ability to understand where each part of Scripture fits with the whole, so that they can read it all in clear perspective. We want them to be equipped to handle any passage of Scripture with a degree of confidence, enabling them to exegete each passage in the context of the whole. In the process, we want to give them the tools of their trade, so that they can apply sound hermeneutical principles to each passage. Above all, we want them to see how Christ is the centre, heartbeat and lifeblood of every Scripture – the Scripture is Christ revealed!

This will entail:

- ⇒ Showing how all creation and providence, under the decree of God, works out for the glory of God, consummated in the new creation in Christ.
- ⇒ Giving a covenantal perspective on Scripture, seeing how God's purpose is worked out through his covenant promises, all fulfilled in Christ.
- ⇒ Showing how the covenantal model marries with a kingdom model, taking us from the kingdom of creation, through the kingdom of Israel, to the kingdom of Christ – each kingdom being governed according to covenant.
- ⇒ Demonstrating how the history of redemption, decreed before the worlds were made, and unveiled in Gen. 3:15, is the unifying storyline of the whole Bible, reaching its climax in Christ incarnate, crucified, risen, ascended and returning.
- ⇒ Grasping how each passage can only be understood through its fulfilment in Christ, since all Scripture testifies of him (though not in a simplistic or artificially forced way – the Bible is not a “textbook”, but a revelation through historical events).
- ⇒ Understanding the relationship between OT and NT, the mystery of Christ hidden and then revealed – this pattern enabling the men to use the NT as the key that unlocks the OT in every instance, even when it is not explicit in the New (i.e. a hermeneutic that applies to all Scripture in every instance, even when an OT text is never specifically referenced in the NT).
- ⇒ Identifying types and antitypes, understanding the complexity of them (for example, they can be positive or negative, they can have a temporal aspect and an eternal one), giving the tools to see how they are all fulfilled in Christ, since if we fail to see them fulfilled in Christ, we have missed the whole point of them!
- ⇒ Understanding the relationship between law and gospel, seeing how Christian liberty does not “do away with” the law, rather enabling us to keep it in Christ; but equally seeing how the law is revealed not as a means of salvation, but as a schoolmaster to lead us to faith in the finished work of Christ.

Outline of the nine sessions taking place across two days:

1. **Reading the Bible like Jesus** — show how the Lord understood the OT as being all about him, all for him and all to equip him for his life and ministry (begin with Jesus speaking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus in Lk. 24:1-27, marrying that with

Lk. 2:41-50 where he prepares for his ministry by studying the Scriptures, then use passages from John's Gospel to show how he did this in practice).

2. **Reading the Bible like the apostles** — show how the Lord sent the Spirit to equip the apostles not only with the fullness of his fresh & final revelation (John 16:5-15 with Acts 17:2-4), but with the tools to interpret the whole Bible as it speaks of him (could use Hebrews for this purpose).
3. **Reading Genesis 1-3** — expound the covenant of works as given (and how Christ keeps it), and the nature of the promise in Gen. 3:15 concerning the covenant of grace (fulfilled in Christ and the new covenant).
4. **Reading Genesis 4-50** — expound the covenants with Noah and Abraham, showing how they are foundational (in different ways) for the understanding of the whole Bible, preparing the way for and pointing to Christ.
5. **Reading the Pentateuch** — Exodus particularly as a type of Christ's work, and the covenant with Moses as the shadow of Christ's atonement, outlining redemption as the Bible's great storyline. Multiple themes can be explored here, including deliverance from the bondage of sin (Christian liberty, Romans 8), Christ as our Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), Christ as the greater-than-Moses (Deut. 18:15-22 with Heb. 3), Christ the great High Priest (Heb. 5), Christ the Tabernacle of God (Jn. 1:14) and so on!
6. **Reading the Histories** — the covenant with David (2 Sam. 7) establishing the kingship, and typological of Christ our king (major on the use and application of typology, showing how David points to Christ both positively, e.g. in the slaying of Goliath, 1 Sam. 17, and negatively, e.g. in the incident with Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 11).
7. **Reading the Prophets** — emphasising the new covenant prophecies, both explicit (Isaiah 9:1-7, Jeremiah 31:31-34) and typological / apocalyptic / allegorical (Daniel 7-12; most of Ezekiel), all fulfilled in Christ. We must show the men how OT prophecy always takes us to Christ and finds its fullness in Christ; yes there is usually a more immediate outworking of prophecy in the history of Israel, but there is always a consummation of it in Christ – we must help the men to see how to handle such prophecy by exegetical example.
8. **Reading the Psalms** — the Psalms as the prayers of Christ, written before he was born, to guide, direct, enable and sustain him throughout his ministry (for example, Psalms 2, 110, 40, 22, all with their NT hermeneutic of Christ). By reading each and every Psalm as Christ would have read it in his life and ministry, enables us to understand its ultimate meaning and purpose. Yes there was an application for David or Asaph or Israel (this must be shown), but ultimately it is all for Christ, about Christ and fulfilled in Christ.
9. **Reading the Bible for future glory** — the consummation of God's covenant purposes in the glory of the new heavens and the new earth, where we enjoy the beatific vision of Christ glorified – this as the purpose of God from the very beginning, to bring all things under the lordship of the glorified Christ in his eternal kingdom – show how the new heavens & earth must be understood in light of the whole Bible as the new Creation / Eden / Israel / Temple / King etc.