

Christ In The Old Testament
“According To The Scriptures”
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Introduction:

1. Please Open Your Bibles With Me Tonight:
 - First - To - The New Testament Passage:
 - That Is On Your Message Guide:
 - 1 Corinthians 15 - Where:
 - The Apostle Paul Reminds The Corinthian Church About The Gospel - Good News:
 - That He Preached To Them:
 - About The Lord Jesus Christ!
2. So - Picking Up In:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 - We Read:
 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; / By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. / For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: / And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: / After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. / After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. / And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time!”
 - Now - We’ve Looked At These Verses Before!
 - But - Through Them:
 - We Find Four Of The Main Elements:
 - That Make Up The Gospel:
 - Explicitly Stated!
 - The First Main Element:
 - Is - Of Course - The:
 - Death Of Christ - There In 15:3!
 - “How That Christ Died For Our Sins According To The Scriptures!”
 - This Leads To:
 - The Second Main Element:
 - There In 15:4 - That Is The:
 - Burial Of Christ!
 - “And That He Was Buried!”
 - This Element Is Important:
 - Because It Provides The Proof:
 - Of His Death! But:
 - This Then Leads To:
 - The Third Main Element:
 - Also In 15:4 - Which Is The Glorious Truth Of The:
 - Resurrection Of Christ!
 - “And That He Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”
 - And - This Then Leads To:
 - The Fourth Main Element:
 - In 15:5 - That Tells Us:
 - “That He Was Seen!”
 - And - “Seen” - Of Many Witnesses!
 - Including The Apostle Paul!
 - And - This Element Is Important:
 - Because It Provides The Proof:
 - Of Jesus’ Resurrection!
3. But - There Is:
 - A Fifth Main Element Of The Gospel:
 - That - Even Though It Is More Implicit In These Verses:
 - Yet - It Is The Foundation:
 - Of All The Others!
 - And That Is:

- That There Was & Is:
 - A “Christ!” (15:3)
- That There Was & Is:
 - An “Anointed One” - Promised By God:
 - Who Came & Fulfilled:
 - All That He Was Sent To This World To Accomplish!
- This Means That:
 - There Was & Is:
 - A Real, Historic Person - Who:
 - In Terms Of Revelation 1:8 - Is:
 - “He That Liveth, and Was Dead; And Behold, (Is) Alive For Evermore!”
- And - This Christ - Who Christians Know & Believe In:
 - Is **Jesus** - The Christ!
 - And - He Came & Lived & Died & Was Buried & Rose Again & Was Seen:
 - All - As Paul Points Out Two Times:
 - In These Verses:
 - “According To The Scriptures!”
 - The Old Testament Writings:
 - Inspired By God - And Given:
 - Through His Prophets:
 - To All Of His People!
 - I Think Its Quite Telling:
 - That - To A Church That Was Made Up Mostly Of Gentile Believers:
 - Paul Talks To Them About The Predominately Jewish Old Testament - The Tanakh:
 - As If They Were Written Directly To Them!
 - Because They Were!
- 4. And So - Paul Here Makes A Claim:
 - That The Gospel - In Its Entirety:
 - Was “According To The Scriptures!”
 - And - If You Want To Learn About:
 - The “Christ” - And What He Would Do:
 - In Order To Bring Light & Salvation To Those Who Believe In Him:
 - You Can “Search The Scriptures” - The Old Testament - Because - As Jesus Himself Said - “They Are They Which Testify Of Me!” (John 5:39)
 - And So - That Is What:
 - We’ve Been Attempting To Do Ourselves:
 - In Our Sunday Night Series This Year:
 - On - “Christ In The Old Testament!”
 - And - So Far - We’ve:
 - “Searched The Scriptures” For Christ:
 - In Six Ways!
- 5. So - By Way Of Quick Review:
 - The First Way We First Found Christ:
 - Was In A Personal Way!
 - That Is - When Jesus Christ:
 - Appeared Personally To Men:
 - As A Man - In A Pre-Incarnate Body!
 - The Second Way We Found Christ:
 - Was As “The Angel Of The Lord!”
 - Who Was Sent On Special Occasions:
 - As God’s Own Messenger:
 - To Deliver God’s Message:
 - To Men!
 - The Third Way We Found Christ:
 - Was In The Wilderness:
 - As God Used Various “Types & Shadows” To:
 - Be “Picture Prophecies” Of:
 - The One Who Would Come To Provide:

- Deliverance - Not Just From Slavery - But From Sin & Satan!
- The Fourth Way We Found Christ:
 - Was In The Tabernacle:
 - Through Which God Taught His People:
 - The Kind Of Deliverer:
 - His Christ Would Be!
 - In Both His Divine & Human Nature!
- The Fifth Way We Found Christ:
 - Was In The Sacrifices:
 - Which Were The Most Significant:
 - Activities Performed:
 - In The Tabernacle!
 - And - Whereas God Used The Tabernacle:
 - To Teach His People:
 - About **Who** Christ Would **Be!**
 - God Used The Sacrifices:
 - To Teach His People:
 - About **What** Christ Would **Do!**
 - As Well As:
 - What Was Absolutely Necessary:
 - For Our Redemption!
 - The Sixth Way We Found Christ:
 - Most Recently - Was In:
 - Some Of The Individual Persons:
 - Recorded For Us In The Old Testament!
 - Like Adam & Melchisedec, As Well As Jacob & Moses & David!
 - These Historic People:
 - Were Recorded For Us:
 - Not Just For The Purpose:
 - Of Information!
 - But For The Purpose:
 - Of Illustration:
 - Of Christ!
 - And Though - Those Men:
 - Were Great Among Men:
 - Yet - Christ Would Be Far Greater & Better - And Come To Perfectly Fulfill:
 - The Roles In Which:
 - They Utterly Failed!
 - And So - We Considered How:
 - When Christ Came - He Came:
 - To “Make All Things New!” (Revelation 21:5)
 - He Came To Make:
 - A New Race:
 - Far Greater & Better Than:
 - The Fallen, Human Race Into Which We All Were Born!
 - A Forgiven & Heavenly Race!
 - He Came To Make:
 - A New Priesthood:
 - Far Greater & Better Than:
 - The Priesthood Of Aaron & His Family!
 - He Came To Make:
 - A New Nation:
 - Far Greater & Better Than:
 - The Nation Of Jacob & His Sons - Even David!
 - And - In This New Nation:
 - He Came As:
 - The New Leader! As:
 - God’s Final Prophet!
 - God’s Perfect Priest! &:

- The Eternal King:
- Of Those Who Believe In Him!

6. Well - This Leads Us To:
- The Seventh & Final Way:
 - In Our Series - That We Will Find:
 - Christ In The Old Testament!
 - And That Will Be:
 - Through Specific Prophecies:
 - About Christ - That Unfold To Us:
 - The Same Elements Of The Gospel:
 - That Paul Proclaimed To The Corinthian Church!
 - And So - For The Next Three Sundays:
 - We Will Look At:
 - Some Of Prophecies About:
 - The Coming Of Christ!
 - The Death Of Christ! And:
 - The Resurrection Of Christ!
 - That Were Directly Fulfilled:
 - By Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The Late, Great Jewish-Christian Scholar:
 - Alfred Edersheim - Found Some:
 - 456 Specific Old Testament Prophecies:
 - That Referred To The Person Of Christ:
 - Or The Times In Which He Lived!
 - And - Out Of Those 456 Prophecies:
 - At Least 300 Were Fulfilled:
 - In The Earthly Ministry:
 - Of Jesus!
 - And - Out Of Those 300:
 - There Are Many:
 - That Were Fulfilled By Jesus:
 - In An Entirely Passive Way:
 - From A Human Perspective!
 - That Is - Many Prophecies Were Fulfilled:
 - Without Any Active, Personal Involvement:
 - By Jesus Himself!
 - Like His Birth!

6. Of Course:
- The Coming Of Christ:
 - Into This World:
 - Is What We Celebrate This Time Of Year:
 - Especially As Christians!
 - But - Sometimes - I Fear:
 - That We Still Take For Granted:
 - The Momentous Truth That:
 - "God Was Manifest In The Flesh!" (1 Timothy 3:16)
 - But - This Event:
 - Along With Many Of The Details Of:
 - The Life Of Christ's - Were:
 - Specifically Prophesied - And:
 - Explicitly Fulfilled:
 - By Jesus!
 - And - I'd Like For Us:
 - To Look At Just Some Of:
 - These Prophecies About:
 - The Coming Of Christ:
 - In The Time We Have Left Tonight!

* One Of The First Things We Notice - All Throughout The Old Testament - Are The Prophecies About:

1. *The Hope Of Christ!*

- One Of The Key Threads:
 - That Tie The Old Testament Together:
 - Is The Various Prophecies:
 - About A Special Seed:
 - Who Would Come:
 - To Do What God Promised The Serpent Back In:
 - Genesis 3:15 - “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel!”
 - And - From This Moment On:
 - God Kept Revealing More & More Information About:
 - How He Would Keep This Promise!
- And - If A Person:
 - Would Just Believe In:
 - This Seed - With:
 - Whatever Light God Had Given Them - About The Seed:
 - They Could Experience The Victory He Would Obtain!
- So - The Promise Of This Special Seed:
 - Or - “Offspring” - Of The Woman:
 - Would Also Be:
- The Seed Of Noah:
 - When God Told Him:
 - In Genesis 9:9 - Some 16 Centuries Later:
 - “Behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you!”
 - Then - Some 300 Years Later:
 - God Revealed That:
 - The Promised Seed Would Also Be:
- The Seed Of Abraham!
 - And - Through His Chosen Family Line!
 - Through Abraham’s Son, Isaac - And:
 - Through Isaac’s Son, Jacob - And:
 - Through Jacob’s Son, Judah!
 - God First Promised This Special Seed:
 - To Abraham - In Genesis 22:17-18:
 - “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; / And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice!”
 - And - This Covenant Promise:
 - Was Then Renewed:
 - With Isaac & Jacob - Until:
 - Jacob Gives Us A Little Glimpse:
 - Into The Nature Of This Seed - In His Blessing:
 - Upon Judah!
 - Because - In Genesis 49:10:
 - He Tells His Son & Family:
 - “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be]!”
 - So - The Seed - Will Be A Royal Seed! A True Prince Of God!
 - And - This Royal Seed:
 - Would Also Be:
 - The Seed Of King David:
 - The Jewish King To Come!
- And All Of These Prophecies:
 - About The Special Seed Promised By God:
 - Were Fulfilled By Jesus:
 - When He Was Born!
 - In The Gospel Of Luke Especially:
 - The Genealogy Of Jesus:

- Is Traced All The Way Back:
 - Through The Family Line:
 - Of David / Abraham / Noah / Adam!
- And - Whoever Would Trust In This Seed:
 - Would Have Hope:
 - In This World - And - Into The Next!
 - Jesus Is Our Hope! Our Light!
 - But - As God Sets Up The Fulfilment Of These Prophecies:
 - More & More Information Is Given About This Royal Seed:
 - In Amazing Detail!
 - And - One Of Those Details Is About:

2. ***The Holiness Of Christ!***

- The Coming Of Christ:
 - Should Be & Would Be:
 - Something Special!
 - A Coming Fit For A King!
 - And - This Is Something That:
 - God Gave To His People:
 - Through The Prophet Isaiah:
 - Who Lived Some 750 Years Before The Birth Of Jesus!
- And - In Isaiah 7:13-14 - When The Leader Of:
 - God's Chosen, Earthly People:
 - King Ahaz - Refused To Honor God's Offer:
 - To Ask Of Him A Sign!
 - Seemingly Out Of Nowhere:
 - God Tells Him Through Isaiah:
 - "Hear ye now, O house of David; [Is it] a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? / Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!"
- Now - Many Of God's Promises / Prophecies:
 - About Christ - Are Like This One:
 - And Seem To Almost Come Out Of Nowhere!
 - But - God's Purpose:
 - Is Always To Remind His People:
 - Of The Promise Of Hope:
 - In Christ!
 - And So - His Specific Prophecies:
 - Are Gracious Promises:
 - To Encourage & To Instill Greater Faith & Trust:
 - In Those Will Believe!
 - And - This Specific Prophecy:
 - About The Unique & Special Birth:
 - Of The Promised Christ:
 - Was Also Fulfilled By Jesus!
 - In Luke 1:27-33 - The Angel Gabriel:
 - Came - "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name [was] Mary!" (1:27) - And He Said To Her - "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS! / He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: / And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (1:31-33) - And To Explain - "How This Shall Be" (1:34) - "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God!" (1:35)
 - If God Can Create Physical Life:
 - Through A Woman:
 - Who "Knew Not A Man!"
 - God Can Create Spiritual Life:
 - Through A New Birth:
 - In Dead Hearts Like Ours!

- But - As Glorious As This Prophecy Is:
 - Which Is Something We Still Treasure:
 - And Find Hope In!
 - The Old Testament Also Reveals:

3. *The Humility Of Christ!*

- At His Coming!
 - Now - Even Though Christ Was To Come:
 - Through The Royal Line Of King David:
 - Something Would Happen:
 - To His Royal Line!
 - After The High Point:
 - Of King David & Solomon's Reign:
 - Because Of Sin - It Would Be Brought:
 - Very Low!
 - Even To The Point Of:
 - Obscurity & To The Brink Of:
 - Extinction!
- But - God Would Still Keep His Promise:
 - In Spite Of This Dark Period:
 - In His Family History!
 - And So - In Isaiah 11:1-2a - About 250 Years After The Glory Years Of David & Solomon:
 - God Told His People - "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: / And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him!" (Seven-Fold Spirit)
- This Was Another Gracious Promise:
 - By God - To His People:
 - After He Promised To:
 - Cut Down The Assyrian Empire:
 - Because Of Their Pride!
 - Back In 10:33-34 - God Said:
 - That He Would:
 - "Hew" Them "Down!"
 - And - "Cut Down The Thickets!"
 - So - Even As They Were Flourishing:
 - They Would Be Brought Low!
 - But - The People Of God:
 - Who Had Already Been:
 - Cut Down To The Roots:
 - Would One Day Be Revived!
 - But - The Way They Would Be Revived:
 - Would Not Be In Such:
 - A Glorious Fashion!
 - It Would Be Through:
 - A Humble Rod:
 - From The Humble Line:
 - Of Jesse - The Father Of David! And:
 - It Would Be Through:
 - A Humble Branch:
 - Out Of His Roots!
 - Weak & Tender:
 - Christ Would Come:
 - According To Appearances:
 - Nothing More Than "A Twig & A Sprig!" (Matthew Henry)
 - This Prophecy Was Also Fulfilled:
 - When Jesus Was Born!
 - Though Born Into A Royal Line:
 - He Was Laid In A Manger:
 - "Because There Was No Room For Them In The Inn!" (Luke 2:7)

- Consider The Humility Of Christ:
 - In Coming For You!
 - Have You Humbled Yourself:
 - And Come To Him?
 - Are You Humbling Yourself:
 - To Live For & Serve Him? Others?
- But - How Christ Would Come:
 - Is How He Would Also Live!
 - In Great Humility!
 - Isaiah 53:1-2:
 - “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? / For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him!”

Conclusion:

1. And - These Are Just A Few:
 - Of The Many Prophecies:
 - About The Christ:
 - Found In The Old Testament:
 - That Were Specifically Fulfilled:
 - By Jesus - When He Was Born:
 - Into This World!
 - His Hope / His Holiness / His Humility!
 - In Addition To These:
 - The Specific Place Of His Birth:
 - Was Also Given To Us:
 - In Micah 5:2!
 - The Little Town Of Bethlehem!
 - This Was A Well-Known Prediction:
 - Even In Jesus’ Day!
 - As We’ve Seen In John! Even:
 - The Specific Period Of His Birth:
 - Was Given:
 - In Daniel 9!
 - So That Even An Old Man Named Simeon:
 - Was “Waiting For The Consolation Of Israel” Around The Time:
 - Of Jesus’ Birth!
2. But - All Of These Prophecies:
 - Are Vital To The Gospel:
 - Because - If There Was No Christ:
 - There Could Never Be:
 - Any Relief - Through His Life!
 - Any Redemption - Through His Death! Or:
 - Any Resurrection:
 - From The Dead!
 - And So - Now - We Can:
 - Rejoice In The Fact:
 - That Jesus Came - As The Christ:
 - According To The Scriptures!
 - And - Rest Our Souls In Him!

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