

11 April 2023

The Gospel preached in the OT.

Romans 15:4: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime (in ancient times, Old Testament times) were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope".

The apostles and writers of the New Testament scriptures oftentimes referred to the OT scriptures to undergird their NT doctrine. When reading, studying, meditating upon ANY of the Holy Scriptures, it is good to remember:

The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed. Last Sunday morning, Brother Chris mentioned that the gospel was preached to Abraham in the Old Testament. Galatians 3:8-9

This was what Abraham had of the gospel in his time? And though in these beginning times the saints had very little for their faith to lay hold of, what they had was from God, and it was the gospel of their salvation!

The OT saints believed was the same gospel that we believe today, but much of what we NOW KNOW of Christ was concealed under types, shadows, sacrifices, OT prophesies, and promises.

Romans 16:25-27, Ephesians 3:8-10, Colossians 1:25-27

Bottom line: The gospel in the NT is the same gospel that was revealed in Genesis 3:15 and other OT passages. But again, much of what we know today in the gospel was not yet revealed in the OT!

And yet, what was revealed pointed to Christ!

The people of the OT did not know Christ's Name, but what they did know of Him, God revealed by the prophets, and in the sacrifices of the OC.

As time went on, more was revealed about the Promised Messiah who would come. There were even persons in the OT who were types and examples of His Person. Melchizedek, Joseph, Moses, David, etc.

Throughout the OT, the people who believed God were taught to trust the LORD through His prophets, and to look by faith for THIS MAN to come who would crush the serpent's head!

But back to one of my opening statements, the OT saints believed the gospel in their day; so, what are those passages from the OT that they believed? And, can we go back, and with the NT scriptures, unseal what was hidden and concealed from the OT saints?

Let's start with our first parents:

Immediately after Adam, and his wife Eve fell into sin, God graciously intervened for them, while pronouncing sentence upon the serpent.

In God's judgment upon the devil, He promised that a redeemer would come to rescue fallen humanity from "Satan's new dominion" over them; this Man would free them from their captivity under Satan, and save them from the curse, which was upon them because of their sins against God. And finally, God would do all the work of redeeming fallen sinners and reconciling them to Himself. God even graciously showed Adam and Eve a picture of HOW He would do this. You might be asking yourself, so did God save Adam and Eve from their sins?

I think YES! But first, do you remember what Adam and Eve did immediately after they fell into sin? Genesis 3:7-8

They were immediately filled with fear and shame because of their sin and disobedience to God, and that is what caused them to run and hide from God behind the trees! John 3:19-20, Romans 8:6-7

And then also, RATHER than confessing their disobedience to God, they covered and tried to hide their sin from God! Proverbs 28:13

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper.. but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

But now, back to the question, "Do I believe Adam and Eve were saved?" YES! After God dealt with all the damage that their sins had brought on all of humanity and the creation, in Genesis 3:21, GOD CAUSED an innocent victim to die, its life was sacrificed, its blood was shed because of their sin, a picture of what "That Promised Man" would do when He came to die for sinners! He would die in the place of a world of sinners!

Once God clothed them, He drove them out of Eden, shut the way against them coming back into the Garden of God by placing a mighty cherub at the east gate with a flaming sword; thus, they were shut out of Eden to live in what was now a fallen world.

Now they must live by faith, looking for, waiting for THAT MAN, the "Promised Seed" to come, who would save reconcile fallen sinners to Himself.

Here the end of Genesis 3, Adam and his wife were now in the world... what did their faith lay hold of? Think of the promise of Genesis 3:15, and the sacrifice of Genesis 3:21.

When this Man comes, He will redeem us, He will rescue us, save us from our sins and from the devil's grasp upon us. He will die in our place for the punishment and penalty our sins, just like we saw in God killing the innocent victim who suffered and died our place for our sins!

From His life, we will be provided with clothing, to cover our nakedness and the shame of our sins... Our covering will come from Him, what belonged to Him, and what was His. We will be covered with His skin, with what was His life. But for us to have all this that was His, He must die, His blood must be shed FOR US! Psalms 32:1, 85:1-2, Romans 4:6-8, 2 Cor 5:21

In closing, all the way back to Genesis 3, immediately after the fall of man into sin, God graciously intervened to save our first parents!

And though Christ had not yet come, all of those that believed in God in the OT, were every bit saved as we are today... for they trusted God and believed in the Messiah who was to come. We believe God and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has come. Romans 3:23-26