

Christ in the Old Testament 2 – Prophecy – Human Ancestors

Purpose: To begin to show that Christ is everywhere in the OT – To cover the human ancestry of Christ according to OT prophecy.

1 Introduction

Continuing series on Christ in the OT

Last study, saw the dangers of mishandling the Word

Looked at some principles of Biblical Interpretation to help us

Bemoaned separation of OT and NT – should not be done!

Then started to think about how Christ appears in the OT

What are the 5 ways to look for Christ in the OT?

Prophecy, Theophanies, Symbols, Types, Ceremonies

Sstart with Prophecy – will take several studies

Want to show that Christ's whole life is in the OT

We can know for sure who the Christ is!

There were no excuses then for not recognizing Him

– there are none now.

This week - major prophecies dealing with His Ancestry

Cannot hope to be comprehensive – you will think of others

2 The Ancestry of the Christ

Take a chronological survey of Christ's family tree

Who comes first?

2.1 Descendant of Adam

Gen 3:14-15 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

A descendant of the woman was to destroy Satan's work

2.2 Descendant of Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the

seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me”

This is interpreted for us in 2 places in the NT

Peter confirms that Christ is the fulfilment of this word:

Acts 3:24-26 “Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

Paul clarifies that the seed of Abraham is, primarily, Christ

Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

2.3 Descendant of Isaac

The promise given to Abraham was repeated to Isaac

Gen 26:3-4 Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

But there was an earlier indication too:

Genesis 21:5-12 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” 7 And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.” 8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

Clear indication that earlier promises would be fulfilled in Isaac

Unusual birth - a child of promise

Also applies to believers - Children of the promise

Supernatural birth –

Also applies to Christ, THE child of promise, supernaturally born

2.4 Descendant of Jacob

Promise to Abraham and Isaac repeated to Jacob at Bethel

Genesis 28:10-14 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to

you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Also understood from Balaam's prophecy

Numbers 24:15-17 Then he uttered his oracle: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly, 16 the oracle of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: 17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. **A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.** He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.

(Was this prophecy by an eastern man (Balaam) the reason why the wise men came from the east?)

Whoever He is, He is king over Jews AND Gentiles (All descendants of Seth)

2.5 Descendant of Judah

When the Bible records last words, often significant

Jacob on the point of death blesses his sons:

Gen 49:1-2 Then Jacob called for his sons and said: "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. 2 'Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel.

Gen 49:8-12 "Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. 9 You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? 10 **The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.** 11 He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

So we know that Messiah will be descended from Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. Then things seem to go quiet for a while, until the next significant member of the family tree is identified.

2.6 Descendant of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1-5 **A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.** 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Of course the point here is that Jesse is David's father and promises were made to David. But it follows that Jesse is also included in this glorious family line.

2.7 A Descendant of David

2 Sam 7:12-16 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”’

This Davidic covenant established that all the following kings of Judah were also ancestors of Christ

Jer 23:5-6 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when **I will raise up to David a righteous Branch**, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Jeremiah 33:15-16 “In those days and at that time **I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line**; he will do what is just and right in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it c will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’

2.8 How it all came to pass

Matthew 1:1-16 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 **Abraham** was the father of Isaac, **Isaac** the father of Jacob, **Jacob** the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 **Judah** the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and **Jesse** the father of King David. **David** was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife, 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah a and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, 15 Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born **Jesus**, **who is called Christ**.

3 Conclusions

Amazing detail

Hundreds of years before he came, so much was known!

These were given so it would be easy to identify the Christ

There could be no excuse that no-one knew

These are given us so that we may be absolutely sure who Christ is

We should rejoice in what our God has given us in the Scriptures!