

Theme: Christ is the focus and fulfillment of the entire Old Testament, and we should expect to see Him in its pages and to find its fulfillment in Him.

I. Intro – A Christ Centered Church

- A. Key part of our self-identification as a church
- B. We are Christ centered because Scripture is
- C. Not just the NT – the OT as well!
- D. This teaching will show that NT teaches this fact
- E. Series will look at Christ as OT focus & fulfillment

II. John 5:39 – Jesus and the OT

- A. The Pharisees diligently studied the Scripture!
 - 1. Jesus does not deny they studied Scripture
 - 2. Example of phylacteries, etc.
- B. They did so because they thought this brought life
 - 1. Quote by Hillel; Baruch 4:1; Deut 32:46-47
 - 2. Only brings life if it leads to God (Dt 30:19-20)
- C. The Scripture testifies about Jesus!
 - 1. He is the focus of the book they had studied!
 - 2. Yet they completely missed Him!

- 3. He is the fulfillment of OT
- 4. Yet they did not recognize Him

III. Jesus is the Focus & Fulfillment of OT

- A. Consistent teaching in NT
 - 1. Not just made 1 or 2 places – all over
 - 2. Not just parts of OT – everything!
 - 3. Not by just 1 or 2 people – many people
- B. Some examples
 - 1. Focus – Jn 5:39; Lk 24:25-27; Gal 3:16; 2 Tim 3:15
 - 2. Fulfillment – Mt 5:17; Acts 13:32-35; Lk 1:67-75; 2 Cor 1:20
 - 3. Many topics & themes –
 - a. Suffer – Lk 24:25-26; 45-48; Acts 17:1-3
 - b. Death – 1 Cor 15:3-4
 - c. Raised – Lk 24:45-48; Acts 17:1-3; 13:32-35; 1 Cor 15:3-4
 - d. Law – Mt 5:17
 - e. Promises – Galatians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:20
 - 4. All parts of OT – Luke 24:25-27, 44
- C. To miss Jesus is to **completely** miss OT
 - 1. Like watching Super Bowl and not noticing game

2. If you miss Jesus, you missed it all!

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do we read Scripture through lens of Christ?

1. He is the one who brings Scripture into focus
2. He is the one who ties Scripture together

B. Do we have a focus on Christ in Scripture?

1. Do we expect to see Christ?
2. Do we look for Christ in all Scripture?
3. Do we see Him central in all – family, finance, etc.?

C. Do we see Christ as fulfillment of **all** Scripture?

1. Not just in 300 messianic prophecies – all!
2. He is the key to Scripture
3. He is the key to life!

Christ: The Focus and Fulfillment of the Old
Testament

John 5:39

February 29, 2004

Response:

Benediction:

The more study of the law the more life... He who has acquired the words of the Law has acquired eternal life. Hillel, *Pirke Aboth* 2:7

She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. *Baruch* 4:1

Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you-- they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess. Deut 32:46-47

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy 30:19-20

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are **the Scriptures that testify about me** John 5:39

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to **believe all that the prophets have spoken!** Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.** Luke 24:25-27

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16

From infancy you have known the **holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you **wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 2 Timothy 3:15

Do not think that I have come to abolish the **Law or the Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them. Matthew 5:17

We tell you the good news: **What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.** As it is written in the second Psalm: 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.' The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' So it is stated elsewhere: 'You will not let your Holy One see decay.' Acts 13:32-35

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (**as he said through his holy prophets of long ago**), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- **to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham:** to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Luke 1:67-75

2 Cor 1:20

Suffer

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **Did not the Christ have to suffer these things** and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:25-26

He told them, "**This is what is written: The Christ will suffer** and rise from the dead on the third day Luke 24:46

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he **reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer** and rise from the dead. Acts 17:2-3

Death

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Raised

He told them, "**This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day** Luke 24:46

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For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Law

Do not think that I have come to abolish the **Law or the Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them. Matthew 5:17

Promises

The **promises** were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16

2 Cor 1:20

All parts – Lk 24:25-27, 44