

Biblical theology on the person and work of CHRIST (His identity and mission)

1) CREATION

Biblos geneseōs Iēsou Christou ≈ the book of the genesis of Jesus Christ

John 1:1 and also note light and darkness themes which parallel Genesis 1

Read Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-2, Luke 24:1 & John 20:1 – what is the common description given in all these 4 passages? How do the gospel writers want us to view Christ's resurrection?

2) THE FALL

What connects these people?

- Sisera (Judges 4)
- Abimelech (Judges 9)
- Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- Absalom (2 Samuel 18)

Genesis 3:15

Psalms 68:21

Golgotha!



3) ABRAHAM

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Richard Dawkins

Genesis 22

- Reminds us of what re Jesus identity?
- What's the big difference? What does it remind us of re Jesus mission?
- How does reading this story help us when faced with people criticizing the 'God of the OT'?

4) EXODUS

Can you list the 10 plagues?

In groups/with the person next to you, think of how the last two plagues mirror the events on the cross?

What's missing at the Last Supper?



5) CANAAN/JUDGES

How does the book of Joshua begin?

- Joshua as the new Moses
 - o Leads the people across the Jordan River on dry ground, just as Moses had done at the Red Sea
 - o Once they enter the land, all the men are circumcised which also reminds us of Moses whose son had to be circumcised before entering the land
 - o Before Joshua goes out to war against Jericho, he meets the angel of the Lord, who tells him to remove his shoes because he is standing on holy ground (Joshua 5:13-15), like Moses at the burning bush
 - o Like Moses, Joshua sends spies into the land.

How does the book of Joshua end?

The 3 big promises to Abraham:

- 1) People (cf. Exodus 12; Numbers 1)
- 2) Place (cf. Josh. 11:23; 21:43-45; 23:14)
- 3) Blessing



Matthew 5:5 & 28:18-20

Romans 4:13

Ephesians 6:3

- Adam gets a garden, Abraham gets a land, the church gets the world! [**NB** – this has big implications for those who argue that the promises concerning the land made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still apply unconditionally and in perpetuity to their physical descendants]

6) KINGDOM

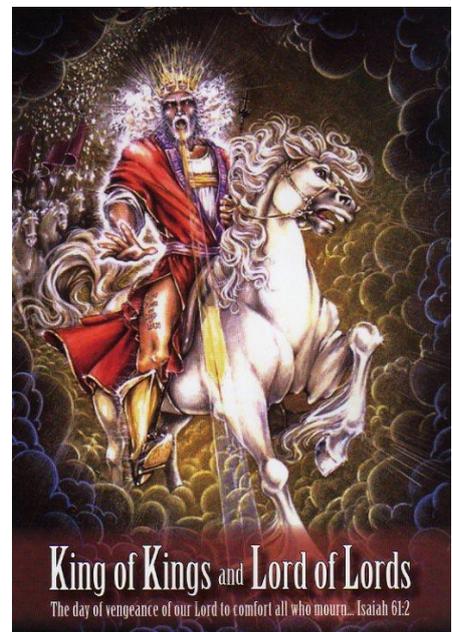
Where is the idea of kingship/kings for the people of Israel first mentioned in Scripture?

What are the missing words? Who speaks these words?

*“You are a lion’s cub O _____;
you return from the prey, my son.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?
The sceptre will not depart from _____
nor the rulers staff from between his feet,
Until he comes to whom it belongs
and the obedience of the nations is his.”*

Notice the inclusivity!

- The Exodus
- The unusual names in Matthew’s genealogy
- The arrival of the Magi [notice who they come seeking]
- The Great Commission



Another lens on the Kingdom is Jesus' own preaching

- His first public proclamation
- The Sermon on the Mount (see especially Matthew 5:19-20; 7:21)
- His rebuke to the Pharisees (Matthew 12:22ff)
- Peter's commission (Matthew 16:19)

7) WISDOM

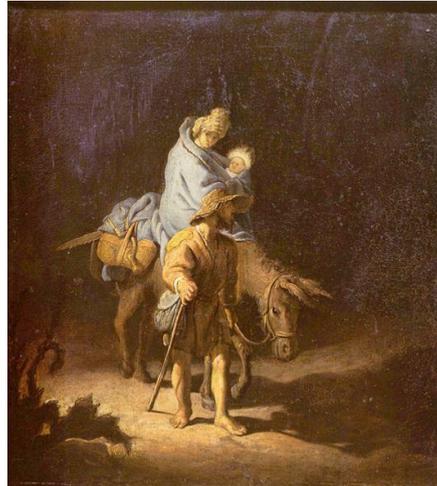
Very closely connected to kingship – a good king speaks wisely and through his speech brings security and prosperity to the land e.g. Solomon in the early part of his reign (contra Trump!)

- Jesus as the new Solomon (Matthew 12:42)
- Like Solomon who receives royalty from afar so too does Jesus
- The extent to which people are astonished by his words

8) EXILE

Galilee

The Christmas story least often preached on!



FROM THIS WE LEARN:

- All roads lead to Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20)

The Old Testament is the New concealed
The New Testament is the Old revealed

- It's ok to apply the Scriptures to our contexts and situations but not before we have thoroughly exalted Christ from the text ("were not our hearts burning within us!")
- Be ready to speak out against the false teachers of our age by teaching Biblical theology
- Know your Bible and seek Christ everywhere (again remember the encounter of the disciples on the Emmaus Road)

SOME RESOURCES:

ONLINE ARTICLES

- <http://beginningwithmoses.org/tag/biblical-theology> (various Biblical Theology articles updated from time to time)
- <http://beginningwithmoses.org/bt-briefings> (various evangelical sermons which show ways to connect the dots to Christ)
- <http://feedingonchrist.com/old-testament-personal-types-and-shadows-of-christ/>
(good article showing how various OT figures {Adam, Abel, Jacob, Job, Elijah, etc) point us to Christ)
- <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/category/biblical-theology/> (contemporary reformed writes with articles stretching back to 2006 with titles such as “The fulfilment of prophecy” to “Who is the true Israel of God”)

BOOKS

- *Bible Overview* by Steve Levy
- *Remaking a broken world: The heart of the Bible Story* by Christopher Ash
- *The Symphony of Scripture* by Mark Strom
- *A House for my name* by Peter Leithart

