

## The Unity of the Old & New Testaments

### I. A Comparison of the Old and New Testaments

#### A. *Fulfillment* as a Dominant Theme

1. Matthew
  - Frequent use of the words, “. . . that it might be fulfilled”
  - Christ’s assertion in the Sermon on the Mount that, “I came. . . to fulfill”
2. Mark
  - 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
3. Luke
  - 4:21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”
4. John
  - John records the response of those who found Jesus:
    - “We have found” (John 1:41, 45)
  - John also emphasizes the words of Jesus, “. . . that it might be fulfilled”

#### B. The *Unfinished* Nature of the Old Testament (Based on *Baxter’s Explore the Book*)

1. A system of sacrifices is a dominant theme of the Old Testament
  - Gen 4
  - Gen 9
  - Gen 12
  - Gen 22
  - Book of Exodus
  - Book of Leviticus

NB: While the rest of the Old Testament books refer to the sacrificial system and the various ceremonies, feast days and memorials, they don’t explain the rationale behind them. Frequently, however, you find hints that they point to realities outside of and beyond themselves.

Without the New Testament the Old Testament remains a book about UNEXPLAINED CEREMONIES

2. The Old Testament focuses on the Jews and describes them as having been called of God for a high and lofty purpose.
  - Beginning in Genesis you see God calling out Abraham and promising to make a great Nation from his descendants.
  - This promise is renewed to Isaac and Jacob.
  - However, the rest of the Old Testament records the radical ups and downs of the nation

NB: The Old Testament closes with the rebukes of the post exilic prophets and questions about whether the nation will ever fulfill the “high and lofty purposes” marked out for them at the beginning of the narrative.  
Without the New Testament the Old Testament remains a book of UNACHIEVED PURPOSES

3. The Old Testament speaks to many of life’s deepest struggles and most vexing of philosophical problems.
  - The Old Testament addresses the problem of the suffering of the righteous and the prosperity of the wicked
  - It addresses many of the problems that are common to humanity (poverty, broken families, oppression, misery)

NB: Yet, while there is much wisdom and comfort, and there are many promises to the righteous, we don’t find “clear and final solutions to the dire problems of sin and pain and death and the beyond.”  
Without the New Testament the Old Testament remains a book of UNAPPEASED LONGINGS.

4. The Old Testament makes many prophecies about future people and events
  - God takes credit in the Old Testament for being the only one who can tell the end from the beginning—*He alone* can tell the future.
  - Some of these prophecies made about near term people and events came true in the chronological span of the Old Testament.

NB: However, the most spectacular fulfillments of prophecies came true as recorded in the New testament.  
Without the New Testament the Old Testament remains a book of many UNFULFILLED PROPHECIES.

II. The UNITY of Revelation (as seen in its themes or subject matter)

A. The Old Testament compared with the New Testament

1. Recognized by the CHURCH

- a. Augustine -  
“...the Old Testament revealed in the New, the New veiled in the Old...”
- b. W. Graham Scroggie -  
“The New is in the Old contained, and the Old is in the New explained.”  
“The Old gathers ‘round Sinai, and the New ‘round Calvary.’”  
"Without the New Covenant, the Old is a start that has no finish; and without the old, the New is a finish that has no start."  
(All from Know Your Bible by W. Graham Scroggie)
- c. Norman Geisler

In the Old Testament Christ is:	In the New Testament Christ is:
in shadow	in substance
in pictures	in person
in type	in truth
in ritual	in reality
latent	patent
prophesied	present
implicitly revealed	explicitly revealed

2. Recognized by CHRIST

- a. Luke 24:27  
27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- b. Luke 24:44  
44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- c. John 5:39  
39 “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me;
- d. of 1,800 verses in the New Testament that are attributed to CHRIST, 180 come from the Old Testament.

3. Recognized by PAUL
  - a. I Cor. 10:6 - "...happened as examples for us...  
10:11 - "Now these things ... were written for our instruction... 11
  - b. Romans 15:4 - "Now whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction..."

B. The Bible viewed as a whole

1. Christ the Theme of the BIBLE
  - a. (J. Sidlow Baxter)
    - Old Testament - Anticipation of Christ
    - Gospels - Manifestation of Christ
    - Acts - Proclamation of Christ
    - Epistles - Explanation of Christ
    - Revelation - Consummation of Christ
  - b. (Norman Geisler, et. al.)
    - LAW/Foundation for Christ/Downward Look
    - HISTORY/Preparation for Christ/outward Look
    - POETRY/Aspiration for Christ/Upward Look
    - PROPHECY/Expectation for Christ/Forward Look
    - GOSPELS/Manifestation of Christ/Downward Look
    - ACTS/Propagation of Christ/Outward Look
    - EPISTLES/Interpretation and Application of Christ/Upward Look
    - REVELATION/Consummation in Christ/Forward Look

2. A comparison of Genesis and Revelation (Lehman Strauss)

Genesis - the commencement of heaven and earth (1:1)

"1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Revelation - the consummation of heaven and earth (21:1)

"1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer {any} sea."

Genesis - the entrance of sin and the curse (3:1-19)

"6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make {one} wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you . . .

16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth. . .

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you,

saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you . . ."

#### Revelation - the end of sin and the curse (21:27; 22:3)

"27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

. . . 3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him. . ."

#### Genesis - the dawn of Satan and his activities (3:1-7)

"1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman. . ."

#### Revelation - the doom of Satan and his activities (20:10)

"10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

#### Genesis - the tree of life is relinquished (2:9; 3:24)

"9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

. . . 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life."

#### Revelation - the tree of life is regained (22:2)

"2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve {kinds of} fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

#### Genesis - death makes its entrance (2:16-17; 5:5)

"16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

". . . 5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died."

#### Revelation - death makes its exit (21:4)

"4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

#### Genesis - Sorrow begins (3:16)

"16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread . . ."

#### Revelation - Sorrow is banished (21:4)

"4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

3. In the work and person of Christ there is a fulfillment of the Levitical Feasts:

THE LEVITICAL FEASTS	
The Feast (Leviticus 23)	The Fulfillment in Christ
Passover (vv. 4-5)	The death of Christ (I Cor. 5:7)
Unleavened Bread (vv. 6-8)	Holy Walk (I Cor. 5:8)
First Fruits (vv. 9-14)	Resurrection (I Cor. 15:23)
Pentecost (vv. 15-22)	Outpouring of Spirit (Acts 1:57 2:4)
Trumpets (vv. 23-25)	Israel's regathering (Matt. 24:31)
Atonement (vv. 26-32)	Cleansing by Christ (Rom. 11:26)
Tabernacles (vv. 33-44)	Rest and Reunion with Christ (Zech.14:16-18)

4. In the Old Testament there are over 300 references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Christ. (See Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell)

- His titles (Son of God, Immanuel, Prophet, Priest, King)
- His lineage (seed of Abraham, son of Isaac, line of Jesse, tribe of Judah)
- His birthplace (Bethlehem)
- His pre-existence ("from the days of eternity" "before all things")
- His ministry (healing, proclaiming the gospel)
- His resurrection (not abandon)
- His ascension (ascended on high)
- His position (seated at the right hand of GOD)
- His betrayal (by a friend, for 30 pieces of silver, thrown down in the house of the LORD, money used to buy a potter's field)
- His trial (spat upon, mocked)
  - His crucifixion (hands and feet pierced, crucified with thieves) etc., etc.