

Christ as the Center of the Bible

Introduction: A plea to read the Old Testament that is for you and to you as the revelation of the Triune God given to his people to instruct and build us up in our faith in the Messiah, considering his whole person and his whole work.

- I. The “problem” of OT interpretation
 - a. John Goldingay: the OT is a “first testament”
 - b. Tremper Longman III: *Christotelic* (first read/second read)
- II. New Testament Texts for OT Interpretation (7 Principles from our primary standard)
 - a. Luke 24:13–35
 1. Christ *is* revealed in the OT, it *is* about him.
 2. The OT reveals the *person* and the *work* of the Messiah
 3. The OT reveals the blessing of redemption found in the Messiah
 - b. Acts 26:22–23
 4. The NT grows organically from the OT
 - c. Romans 1:1–4
 5. The OT presents Christ in the mode of promises revealed by God

- d. 1 Peter 1:10–12
 - 6. The OT prophets thought carefully about the Messiah
 - 7. The OT prophets were *serving you*, the OT is *for you*
 - e. Hebrews 1:1–4
- III. Principles for OT Interpretation from WCF 7.4–6 (secondary standard)
- a. WCF 7.4: One covenant of grace centered on the “testator” of the Covenant
 - b. WCF 7.5: One covenant of grace in *two* epochs
 - i. OT is the epoch of promise in forward-looking hope
 - ii. The OT *on its own terms* fore-signifies Christ
 - iii. The OT ordinances also *apply Christ* to OT saints
 - c. WCF 7.6: In Christ the substance of the Covenant of Grace comes

Conclusion: Christ is the central redemptive subject matter of the OT, which looks forward to his coming as the one who will bring salvation to mankind. The OT is *Christocentric* because it is all about him as the mediator of the covenant of grace, and it is all about him in a forward-looking manner.