

Jesus in the Old Testament

We finished looking at Jesus in Pentateuch and we are going now to take a look at a few of the chief pictures of Jesus in the rest of the Old Testament. We touched on Joshua before, but let's consider him again since he has the same name as our Savior. First his assignment is to lead the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. In Hebrews 4:1-11 we learn that our Savior does what Joshua did but in a more ultimate spiritual sense. He leads us in victory over our enemies, gives us homes we did not build, leads us into a place of abundance. Joshua was told (1:5) no man could stand against him, just as no man could stand against our Savior. He was told the LORD would be with him as He was with Moses, that is, face to face. He would go in and come out, meeting with God for the people. That is what our Savior does. Joshua is a man that leads an army against the enemies of Jehovah. That reminds us of the title Lord of Hosts. We have no record of blemish in Joshua's character.

The Judges follow Joshua and in the sense that they are all deliverers against an oppressor they are all a type of the great Deliverer or Savior. Jesus himself appears three times in Judges, 2:1f, 6:11f, 13:1f especially verse 18.

In the book of Ruth we have the Kinsman Redeemer. In Boaz, whose name means 'ability', we see our Redeemer Who purchased the church to be his bride. Look at chapter 4:4-12 Man lost the title to the earth (property) to Satan in the Garden. Only man could gain the title back – redeem the land. Since no man could because of sin, Ps 49:7-9, God became man. He is our kinsman but being sinless, He is **able** to redeem. When He did so He also took us as his bride purchasing us with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Samuel – *Sumu* was a common word to ancient Hebrew and Babylonian meaning 'son'. When Hannah's prayer was answered she kept her part of the bargain and gave him to the Lord even naming him, Sumu El, son of God. Do you think perhaps he could be a type of the Son of God? Hannah and Mary sang similar songs and both had the same vision. 1Sam 2:10/Lk 1:51-55 Hannah is the first in Scripture to use the name *Messiah*, and her song and the name of her son are prophetic of Christ. Samuel combined the offices of prophet, priest, and ruler just as our Lord does. The *Schools of the Prophets* he established looks forward to the outpouring of the Spirit with the gifts of apostles, evangelists and teachers. But most of all, Samuel was a picture of Christ in his prayer life and intercession. God lists him with Moses as a great intercessor, Jer 15:1. See his heart in 1Sam 12:23. He started his communion with God as a child and has the amazing testimony that he did not let one of His words fall to the ground! Samuel was respected, loved and feared. He had quite a resemblance to Jesus who he foreshadowed. I think he spent so much time with Him that he began to look like Him. If that is true, shouldn't we be doing the same?

David – Outside the Pentateuch David is probably the clearest type of Christ. The similarities begin with their births in Bethlehem. It continues with the knowledge of the call at an early age, Jesus on the temple visit, and David upon Samuel's visit. Then with the quiet years, David watching the flocks and Jesus in his earthly father's carpentry shop. David risked his life for the sheep fighting a lion and a bear. Jesus gave his life for the sheep fighting a lion that walks about seeking whom he may devour. But in giving his life he was victorious like David. The Shepherd and King were blended in David and in David's Son. For your later consideration look at these parallels:

The Good Shepherd in death.	John 10:11	Psalm 22
The Great Shepherd in resurrection	Heb 13:20	Psalm 23
The Chief Shepherd in glory	1Peter 5:4	Psalm 24

David was anointed three times: first in his father's house, once over Judah, and finally over Israel. God has anointed Jesus with the oil of gladness, as King of kings, and Lord of Lords. Just as David was anointed and remained in exile while another ruled, so Jesus waits while the Prince of this World's reign comes to an end. When David was anointed king in Hebron, "The Spirit clothed Amasai and he said, "Thine are we, David, and on thy side." (2Sam 2:4) That sounds like our own recognition of Christ as king within our hearts as the Kingdom comes to us. Some day we will look in His face and declare, "Thou art my King." (Ps 44:4)
Deut 17:15, Heb 2:17 We never read of David being defeated and this pictures our victorious Lord over our enemy, Satan. Is 9:7
David took the stronghold of Zion. This is like the fortress of our will. Once that is surrendered to the Lord, his reign is established.

In Mephibosheth is a picture of the grace of our King. Even though we are crippled and were of the household of the one who sought his life, He brings us into his own household and makes us as one of the King's sons, dining at his table continually. And what is it that is laid upon the table? It is His life that is food for all who will come. "The bread that I give is my flesh".
Then Absalom is sent into exile for the murder of his brother. David's mourning for him reminds us of God's love for the lost. "The King wept very sore... And David mourned for his son every day...And the soul of David longed to go forth unto Absalom". But then hear the words of the woman of Tekoa, "God deviseth means, that he that is banished be not an outcast from Him" (2Sam 14:14 RV)

But Absalom still rebels and tries to establish himself as king. Even in the midst of rebellion against David's love and generosity, David still asks his soldiers to deal gently with him, and wishes he could give his life in his place. That is the heart of Jesus for you!
As David left Jerusalem the same way Jesus entered the last time a group of 600 Philistines led by Ittai from Gath joined him. The must have been won over by his integrity and anointing when he was in hiding from Saul in Ziklag. As they came to the Kidron, which was flooding, David pleaded with them to return, that they might be joining a lost cause. Ittai and company would not leave his side and passed over with their families to follow David into a second exile. Whether in life or death he would not leave his master's side. When David wanted to join them in battle they refused to let him telling him that he was worth ten thousand of them.

When Jesus went over the same brook and climbed the same Mt. of Olives he did not have a huge band of soldiers. Only 11 men were with him and they could not watch with him one hour. When the enemy came, they forsook the fairest of 10,000. He laid down his life for those same deserters. Do we have the devotion of Ittai who would not leave his side even in disgrace and seeming defeat? We can still make His heart glad by standing with Him as the world scorns Him. In Shemei, who cursed David, we have the scorners who mocked the Savior on the cross. In Ahithophel's advice to Absalom we have the similarity to our Lord, "I will smite the King only". He was "Smitten and stricken of God" for us.

The good news in this shadow is that upon the defeat of the rebels, King David crosses over Jordan (a symbol of death) and returns to reign. Tradition says all Judah went out to meet him on the other side of Jordan and bring him back. "The dead in Christ shall rise first" and then we that remain will be caught up to meet Him in the air. He will return on a white horse with a sword blazing from his mouth and the armies of heaven will follow. There will be no challenge to his reign then. And see what David is promised by God, 1Chron 17:7-14. The only One who is alive today that can claim to be heir of this promise is Jesus Christ. Even so Lord Jesus, come quickly!