

*introductory materials - Bible studies
precept minutes*

CHRIST FOCUSED BIBLE STUDY

(READING THE BIBLE CENTERED ON CHRIST)

We have said that theology is for doxology. This means that nothing we do as Christians should be academic or just an exercise in discipline. We study the Bible to glorify our Savior, to know Him better, and to follow Him more closely.

Today, I want to give some material to help you see Christ in every section of the Bible. My hope is that this will stimulate us to think of Jesus even when we are reading a section of the Bible that may seem unrelated to Christ.

We think of the Bible in sections, the Old and New Testament, the books of the Bible, the Gospels, the epistles, etc; however, the Bible is a single document and it is a progressive, gradual revealing of God's design for the world, and more specifically, for His people! Christ is seen as progressively more and more until He is revealed in the gospels.

I want to give us a Christ centered orientation to the Bible and then give two examples of how to see Christ in each passage.

The center of the Bible is Psalm 118:8. "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"

The Bible can be divided into 8 sections, each with Christ as the underlying theme.

OLD TESTAMENT

- Law = The foundation for Christ
- History = The Preparation for Christ
- Poetry = The Aspiration for Christ
- Prophecy = The Expectation of Christ

NEW TESTAMENT

- Gospels = Manifestation of Christ
- Acts = Propagation of Christ
- Epistles = Explanation/Application of the Christ Life
- Revelation = Consummation of all things in Christ

CHRIST IN EACH BOOK

- Genesis** first promise of salvation (3:15)
Messianic lines: Seth(4:25), Shem (9:26), Abraham (12:3), Isaac (26:3),
Jacob (46:3), Judah (49:10)
Types of Christ:
Abel = offering of a blood sacrifice and being killed though innocent
Melchizedek's priestly ministry
Joseph = dearly loved son, betrayed, yet becomes deliverer

*Eight
Books*

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| Exodus | Types of Christ: Moses = prophet, kinsman redeemers who are endangered in infancy renounced power to serve others, law giver Passover Seven Feasts Exodus = connected to baptism by Paul picturing our death, burial, and resurrection Manna and Water The Tabernacle The High Priest |
| Leviticus | The Five Offerings all show Christ The High Priest The Feasts The Holiness of the Laws |
| Numbers | The rock that quenches thirst The daily manna The pillar of Cloud and Fire is the guidance of Christ and our refuge The red heifer |
| Deuteronomy | Christ is seen in Moses who serves as Prophet, Priest, and King |
| Joshua | the name Joshua is the equivalent of the Greek Jesus and is a contraction of Yeshua (God is our Salvation) Joshua triumphantly leads God's people into their rest and promised land |
| Judges | Each judge is a ruler-deliverer as Christ is our righteous deliverer |
| Ruth | Kinsman Redeemer had to be: 1. blood relative 2. able to pay the price 3. willing to redeem 4. be fully free himself (Christ was free from sin) |
| I Samuel | first book to use the word anointed (Messiah means anointed one) David is a type of Christ: 1. born in Bethlehem 2. shepherd 3. ruler over Israel 4. forerunner of Jesus by heading a dynasty |
| II Samuel | the life of David in this book the Davidic Covenant is fully established |
| I Kings | Solomon portrays Christ in his future reign Christ is wisdom itself |
| II Kings | Elijah shows the coming of John the Baptist, emphasizes Law and judgment Elisha shows Christ, miracles, God's love and grace, deeds of kindness |

I and II Chronicles everything related to I and II Samuel applies here
You can also see God's sovereign control as the line of David is threatened by murder, treachery, battles, and even captivity, yet remains intact from Adam to Zerubbabel
This relates to the genealogies in Matthew and Luke

Ezra This book shows God keeping His covenant by restoring the people and keeping the line of Christ alive

Nehemiah Christ is seen in Nehemiah being willing to leave his high position in order to do the work of restoration

Esther Christ is seen in Esther being willing to place herself in the place of death for her people's salvation, as an advocate

Christ in the Poetry Books:

1. Job shows the mediation by Christ--also predicts a future redeemer
2. Psalm shows communion with Christ--seen directly in Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 41, 45, 68, 69, 102, 104, 118
3. Proverbs shows wisdom in Christ--wisdom is divine, source of ^{life} ~~life~~, righteous, valuable
4. Ecclesiastes shows satisfaction in Christ--perplexity of life only answered in a savior
5. Song of Solomon shows the union of love with Christ--Christ's love for the church

Isaiah shows Christ the Messiah:
1. His Sovereignty = 6:1
2. birth and humanity = 7:14, 9:6, 11:1
3. ministry by the Spirit = 11:2
4. divine nature = 7:14, 9:6
5. Davidic descent = 11:1
6. redemption work = 53
7. servant savior = 49

Jeremiah shows Christ the Messiah:
1. fountain of living water = 2:13
2. balm of Gilead = 8:22
3. Good Shepherd = 23:4
4. righteous branch = 23:5
5. righteousness = 23:6
6. new covenant = 31:31-34

Lamentations man of sorrows, despised, afflicted = 1:12, 3:19, 2:15-16, 3:14, 30
weeps over the destruction of Jerusalem same as Matthew 23

Ezekiel tender shoot planted on a high mountain = 17:23-24
the Messiah who will rule = 21:26-27
the true shepherd = 34:11-31

Daniel coming Messiah who is cut off = 9:25-26
great stone who crushes the nations = 2:34, 45
son of man = 7:13 ancient of days = 7:22
vision of 10:5-9 is most likely Christ's appearance

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| Hosea | Messiah is seen as the Son of God = 11:1 only Savior = 13:4 one who will ransom from the dead = 13:14 loves with compassion = 11:4 one who heals = 6:1 |
| Joel | one who gives the Holy Spirit = 2:28 judge of the nations = 3:2,12 the refuge and stronghold = 3:16 |
| Amos | rebuilds David's dynasty = 9:11 restores His people = 9:11-15 |
| Obadiah | judge of the nations = 15-16 Savior = 17-20 possessor of the kingdom = 21 |
| Jonah | Christ is seen as the resurrection, prophet to the nations, and Savior |
| Micah | God of Jacob = 4:2 judge of the nations = 4:3 ruler who would be born in Bethlehem = 5:2 |
| Nahum | the jealous God and avenger = 1:2 |
| Habakkuk | salvation appears 3 times and is the root word of Jesus the Holy one = 1:12 one who justifies = 2:4 one who will fill the earth = 2:14 |
| Zephaniah | righteous of Israel = 3:5 the King = 3:15 |
| Haggai | restorer of the temple's glory = 2:7-9 overthrower of the kingdoms of the world = 2:22 |
| Zechariah | the Messiah is seen in both of His advents = 3:1 the righteous branch = 3:8 stone with seven eyes = 3:9 pierced one = 12:10 coming, humble King = 9:9-10 smitten Shepherd = 13:7 coming judge = 14 |
| Malachi | predicts the messenger of the Messiah = 3:1 Christ's second coming = 3:2-5 |

An Old Testament Passage

I Samuel 15:2-11

When studying any passage you want to get acquainted with the main characters. Here we see God, Saul, Amalekites, Agag, and Samuel. We can easily get wrapped in the human aspects of this passage:

1. Why did God command Saul to kill all the Amalekites?
2. Why did Saul give the Kenites a way out?
3. What did God mean by he repented?

But, this is looking at the passage primarily from a man centered point of view.

What does passage teach us about God?

1. God never forgets or excuses sin that is unrepentant
2. God expects total obedience
3. We can think we are pleasing God if we judge by man-oriented measures of success, but be failing to accomplish God's purposes

CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS

Matthew = Christ as the Messiah-King, written to Jews, shows Jesus as the Lion, "king of heaven" occurs 32 times

Mark = Christ as the Servant, written to Roman world, shows Jesus as the Ox, Mark 10:45 this gospel has only 18 of 70 parables, but half of His 35 miracles

Luke = Christ as the Son of Man, written to the Greek world, Jesus as the man, image of the Greek ideal of perfect man which Jesus alone fulfills

John = Christ as the Son of God, written to the church, Jesus as the eagle, shows the 7 sign miracles and 7 "I AM" statements

----for the images of Jesus above see Ezekiel 1:10

Acts = gives us the first 30 years of the propagation of Christ through his appointed apostles, his resurrection is a central theme

A New Testament Passage

Acts 16: 25-31

Again, a passage in which it is easy to get caught up in the characters of Paul, Silas, and the Philippian jailer or the miraculous event of an earthquake setting them free.

The most significant statement made is verse 31. When Paul said to him "Lord Jesus Christ", he was saying salvation is only in one person and that person is:

Lord = equal with God, creator, ruler, king of the universe

Christ = promised Messiah, sacrifice for sins

One More New Testament Passage

Romans 8:1-8

When studying this passage, it is important to study the key words:

condemnation

the Law

walk-live

righteousness

flesh *- sinful nature*

mind

However, the key phrase is found by reading this passage centered on Christ. The key phrase is in verse 1, "in Christ Jesus"

Romans = justified in Christ

I Corinthians = sanctified in Christ

II Corinthians = consolation in Christ

Galatians = freedom in Christ

Ephesians = exalted in Christ

Philippians = exultation in Christ (joy)

Colossians = complete in Christ

Other ways of seeing Christ in the Pauline Epistles:

Romans = Christ is the power of God to us

I Corinthians = Christ is the wisdom of God to us

II Corinthians = Christ is the comfort of God to us

Galatians = Christ is the righteousness of God to us

Ephesians = Christ is the riches of God to us

Philippians = Christ is the sufficiency of God to us

Colossians = Christ is the fullness of God to us

I Thessalonians = Christ is the promise of God to us

II Thessalonians = Christ is the reward of God to us

I Timothy = Christ is the source of our calling and strength for ministry

II Timothy = Christ abolished death and brought life

Christ is the one in whom all believers have died, in whom they live, and in whom they will be rewarded

Titus = Christ is deity and the one who has redeemed us

Philemon = portrays the forgiveness the believer finds in Christ

Hebrews = the essence of God (1:3,13), seated at the right hand of God (1:3), declared by the Father to be God (1:8-9), eternal Creator (1:10-12), eternal Priest portrays Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King

James = seen as the Lord Jesus Christ with 15 references to His teachings on the Sermon on the Mount

I Peter = the living hope and imperishable inheritance
God's lamb
perfect example
Chief Shepherd

II Peter Lord and Savior mentioned 4 times
Lord 14 times

I John our righteous advocate
atoning sacrifice

II John past coming = incarnation
present coming = risen
future coming = second appearance

III John Called "The Name"

Jude a security for believers (24), gives eternal life (21), access to God (25)

Revelation Jesus is seen in this book as:
wisdom and power = chapter 1
authority over the church = chapters 2-3
judge of the world = chapters 5-19
faithful witness
firstborn of the dead
ruler over the kings of the earth
first and last
holy and true
the Amen
Lion of the tribe of Judah
root of David
the lamb
Faithful and true
the Word of God
King of Kings and Lord of Lords