

READING THE BIBLE

WITH JESUS AT THE CENTRE

Why is it important?

What does it mean?

The Old Testament is a room  
“fully furnished but dimly lit”.

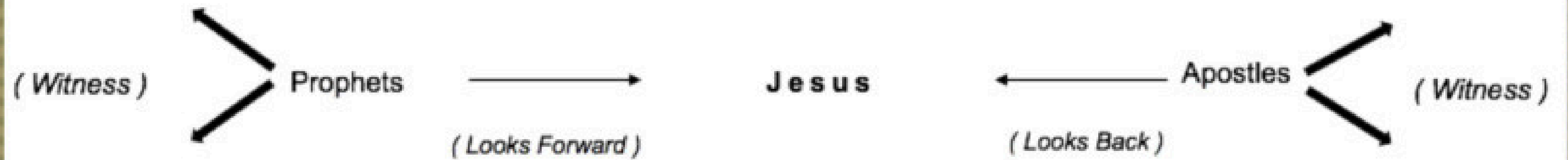
— B.B. Warfield

and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:15–16

ESV



Is it biblical?

# The Teaching of Jesus



# The Teaching of Jesus

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 5:17

ESV

# The Teaching of Jesus

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

John 5:39

ESV

# The Teaching of Jesus

And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Luke 24:25-27

ESV

# The Teaching of Jesus

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

# The Teaching of Jesus

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Luke 24:44

ESV

# The Preaching of Early Believers

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Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:35

ESV

# The Preaching of Early Believers

for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Acts 18:28

ESV



# The Witness of the New Testament Letters

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For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

ESV

# The Witness of the New Testament Letters

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

1 Peter 1:10-12

ESV

# The Witness of the New Testament Letters

inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

# The Witness of the New Testament Letters

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

How do we follow this  
approach?

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Luke 24:32

ESV

Then he opened their minds to understand the  
Scriptures,

Luke 24:45

ESV



He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine  
and declare it to you.

John 16:14

ESV

# How do we follow this approach?

- Passages
- Promises
- People
- Provisions

“In Jesus, the promise is confirmed; the covenant is renewed; the prophecies are fulfilled... the perfect sacrifice has been offered and accepted; the great priest over the household of God has taken his seat at God’s right hand... the Prophet like Moses has been raised up; the Son of David reigns... the Servant of the Lord, having been smitten to death for his people’s transgression and borne the sin of many, has accomplished the divine purpose”.

— F. F. Bruce

Is there a danger with  
this approach?

# Dale Ralph Davis Writes:

- “the whole Old Testament bears witness to Christ, and, the Old Testament does not bear witness only to Christ”.
- “I think Jesus is teaching that all parts of the Old Testament testify of the Messiah in his suffering and glory, but I do not think Jesus is saying that every Old Testament passage/text bears witness to him”.
- “I am convinced that I do not honour Christ by forcing him into texts where he is not”.

# Worked Examples

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who  
are bound;

Isaiah 61:1

ESV

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:16-21

ESV



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins.

Leviticus 16:20-22

ESV

And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.

the goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

ESV

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being  
rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.

And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’

Acts 13:34–37

ESV

Therefore he says also in another psalm,

“‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’



For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

# RESOURCES



History of Salvation In The  
Old Testament



Christ Centered  
Preaching