

# Christ in the Psalms

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# Christ in the Old Testament

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." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

--Luke 24:44-45

## Christ in the Old Testament (2)

and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

-- Luke 24:46-47

# A. Functions of Christ in the Old Testament

# Christ as God and Man

1. He is God.

God

2. Mediator between  
God and men.

3. He is man.

man

# Christ as God and Man

1. He is God.

God

2. He is the only mediator between God and men.

3. He is man.

man

# Christ as Speaker

- Christ is God.
- The Bible is God's speech.
- Speech of all three Persons.
- Christ speaks every word.
- Christ speaks the OT.

Easy and direct!



# Christ as Speaker

- Christ is God.
- The Bible as God's word is the speech of all three Persons of the Trinity.
- In particular, Christ speaks every word.
- Christ speaks the OT.

Easy and direct!



# Christ as Mediator

- Christ is the only mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).
- OT mediatorial figures prefigure Christ.
- Included are
  - prophets,
  - kings,
  - priests,
  - Levitical singers,
  - wise men.

# Christ as Mediator

- Christ is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).
- Mediatorial figures in the OT prefigure Christ's mediatorial work.
- Included are
  - prophets, kings, priests,
  - Levitical singers, wise men.

# Christ Is Representative Man

- Christ is a human being.
- Like Adam, he is representative.
- Christ as a man hears OT.
- Christ with Israelites listens to the OT.

Sometimes forgotten.



# Christ Is Representative Man

- Christ is a human being.
- Like Adam, he is the representative for many.
- Christ as a man hears and appropriates for himself the words of the OT.
- Israelites are invited to meditate on the OT. Christ is the preeminent listener (Heb. 10:7; Ps. 40:7-8).

# Christ as Singer

Hebrews 2:12:

“I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

(Quoted from Ps. 22:22.)

- Hebrews 2 interprets “I” as applying to Christ.

## 2. Christ in Psalm 23

# Christ Is Divine Author

- Christ speaks and teaches Psalm 23.
- To human author, then to all.
- He declares that God is the Shepherd.

# Christ Is Divine Author

- Christ speaks and teaches Psalm 23 first of all to the human author, then to all God's people.
- He declares that God is the Shepherd.

# Christ Is Mediatorial Shepherd

- Christ mediates divine shepherding.
- In John 10, Christ is “the good shepherd.”
- John 10 fulfills Psalm 23.

# Christ Is Mediatorial Shepherd

- Christ mediates the divine shepherding presence of God, as promised in the psalm.
- In John 10, Christ is “the good shepherd,” fulfilling Psalm 23.

# Christ Is a Human “Sheep”

- On earth, Christ trusts in the Father.

He receives  
the Spirit

spiritual  
prosperity

perfect  
righteousness

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

# Christ Is a Human “Sheep”

- In his earthly life, Christ trusts in the Father and receives his shepherding care.

He receives  
the Spirit

spiritual  
prosperity

perfect  
righteousness

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

# Christ's Inheritance as "Sheep"

rescue  
from death

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

vindication  
from enemies

rich blessing

love of God

presence  
of God

eternal life

### 3. Christ in Psalm 22

# Participation in Psalm 22

David experienced distress

All OT worshipers participate

culmination of distress in Christ

All NT worshipers participate

A regular  
pattern



# Stages in Psalm 22

Lament (1-2)

Expression of confidence (3-5)

Lament (6-8)

Trust and prayer for deliverance (9-11)

Lament (12-18)

Deliverance (19-21)

Thanksgiving (22-31)

# Being Forsaken (1-2)

David

OT worshipers

Christ

NT worshipers

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”  
(1).

Pattern of suffering



# Expressing Confidence (3-5)

David

OT worshipers

Christ

NT worshipers

“Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises  
of Israel.” (3)

“In you our fathers  
trusted; they trusted, and  
you delivered them.” (4)

# Past Intimacy (9-11)

David

OT worshipers

Christ

NT worshipers

“Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.” (9)

# Thanksgiving (22-31)

David

OT worshipers

Christ

NT worshipers

“From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.”  
(25).

A pattern of thanks.



# Salvation Spreads (27-31)

David

OT worshipers

Christ

NT worshipers

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.”  
(27)

# Psalm 22 as a Model Psalm

- Psalm 22 contains distinct moods.
- Moods can be expanded.
- Whole psalms have a dominant mood:
  - lament (groaning)
  - confidence (trust)
  - request (cry for deliverance)
  - thanksgiving (praise for deliverance)

# Psalm 22 as a Model Psalm

- Psalm 22 contains elements that can be expanded to produce whole psalms with a dominant mood:
  - lament (groaning)
  - confidence (trust)
  - request (cry for deliverance)
  - thanksgiving (praise for deliverance)

## 4. The General Pattern of Christ's Suffering and Glory

# Emotional Expression in Psalms

Depths:  
suffering, groaning  
(lament)

Heights:  
exaltation, deliverance  
(thanksgiving, praise)

Reflection:  
recital, meditation  
(wisdom, history)

# Christ as Man

- Christ shares in humanity.
- He shares in emotional life.
- He represents pure emotional life.
- He is perfect, representative man.

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:26).

# Christ as Man

- Christ shares in humanity.
- He shares in emotional life.
- He expresses emotional life with supreme intensity and purity, as perfect and representative man.

“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:26).

# Emotional Expression in Christ

Depths:  
supreme suffering  
(crucifixion)

Heights:  
supreme triumph  
(exaltation)

Reflection:  
supreme wisdom  
(divine council)

Fulfillment  
in Christ



# Types of Psalms

- Trust
- Lament
- Thanksgiving
- Songs of Zion
- Royal psalms
- Praise;  
Wisdom
- Earthly life
- Crucifixion
- Resurrection
- Ascension
- Session
- Session,  
Sending the Spirit

# Psalms of Confession

- Psalms confess sin (Pss. 32, 51).
- But Christ was sinless (Heb. 4:15).
- Ps. 69 contains both confession (verse 5) and Christ (verses 9, 21).

Christ is the perfect priestly confessor  
on our behalf.

# Psalms of Confession

- Psalms confessing sin (Pss. 32, 51) are an exception because Christ was sinless (Heb. 4:15).
- But Ps. 69 contains both confession ( verse 5) and elements alluded to in the NT with reference to Christ (verses 9, 21).

Christ is the perfect priestly confessor  
on our behalf.