

The Gospel Concealed: The Old Testament

Week 8: God Saves – Salvation in the OT

The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed. -St. Augustine

Discussion

- How were the saints of the OT saved? What role did the OT law play in the salvation of Israel?

Where have we been so far...

- *Covenant* – a religious agreement that creates a relationship with legal aspects.
- *The Kingdom of God* – God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing.
- *The People of God* - God, as an act of love and mercy, chooses a people for himself (Covenant) and sends them out to be a blessing to all (Kingdom).

Salvation in the Old Testament – An Introduction to the Covenant of Grace

1689 LBCF – Chapters 7 (“God’s Covenant) & 8 (“Christ the Mediator”)

7.1. Though rational creatures are responsible to obey God as their Creator, the distance between God and these creatures is so great that they **could never have attained** the reward of life except by God’s voluntary condescension. He has been pleased to express this through a covenant framework.

7.2. Since humanity brought itself under the curse of the law by its fall, it pleased the Lord to make a **covenant of grace**. In this covenant he freely offers to sinners life and salvation through Jesus Christ. On their part he requires faith in him, that they may be saved, and promises to give his Holy Spirit to all who are ordained to eternal life, to make them willing and able to believe.

7.3. This covenant is revealed in the gospel. It was revealed first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation through the seed of the woman. After that, it was **revealed step by step** until the full revelation of it was completed in the New Testament. This covenant is based on the eternal covenant transaction between the Father and the Son concerning the redemption of the elect. Only through the grace of this covenant have those saved from among the descendants of fallen Adam obtained life and blessed immortality. Humanity is now utterly incapable of being accepted by God on the same terms on which Adam was accepted in his state of innocence.

8.6. The price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after his incarnation. **Yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefit of it was imparted to the elect in every age since the beginning of the world**, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices that revealed him and pointed to him as the seed that would bruise the serpent’s head and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- **Even in the form of shadows and promises not-yet fulfilled, God’s people have always been saved by faith in the grace and mercy of God – purchased in finality through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God – Jesus Christ.**

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (Romans 4:13-15)

The Gospel Concealed – Case Study #6

Redemptive Themes in ALL of Scripture

(Adapted from Matthew S. Harmon)

OT Salvation History	Prophetic Eschatology	Fulfillment in Christ
God and his creation	<i>God will bring about a new creation</i>	All things were created by and through Christ and He himself creates in us a new creation
Human beings are made from earth	<i>God will raise a renewed people for himself and give them his Spirit.</i>	Jesus is fully human – and perfectly spirit-empowered.
Eden is the focus of man's dominion over the creation	<i>The kingdom will be a new Eden. The people of God will have dominion over all of creation.</i>	Jesus is the place where God and man meet. He has dominion as the last Adam.
Fall and judgement	<i>Final judgement will come on those who do not receive the grace of God.</i>	Jesus was made to be sin for us. He suffered the wrath of God and the curse of the covenant for us on the cross.
Redemption	<i>God will redeem Israel and restore creation</i>	Jesus redeems the whole of creation, not merely souls.
Covenant	<i>A new covenant will take place of the old.</i>	Jesus is the true partner of God; the faithful covenant keeper.
Law	<i>The law will be written on the hearts of God's people</i>	Jesus fulfills the law on behalf of God's people so they can honor it with their lives.
Worship, Priests, Tabernacle	<i>A new temple will be the focus of worship and fellowship with God</i>	Jesus fulfills the worship of Israel, above all by being the new temple and the true priest who offers himself as the one true sacrifice for sin.
Entry to the promised land	<i>The people of God will return from the nations to the land of promise</i>	Jesus gains entry through his sacrifice, and by being the place where God meets his people, he fulfills the meaning of the land and will one day redeem all of creation.
Nationhood involving judges, prophets, kings, and wise men	<i>A new nation will emerge with all the offices of rule and worship.</i>	Christ establishes a nation, and leads it as the true prophet, priest, king, and wise man.
Kingship, temple, Davidic throne	<i>There will be a new David and a new temple.</i>	Jesus, the King and true Son of David, is also the new temple where God and mankind meet.
Destruction of Israel and exile	<i>The exile into Babylon will lead to a redemptive act</i>	Jesus goes into exile for his people so that he can lead them out of captivity.
Prophetic word	<i>God will raise up a new prophet.</i>	Jesus is the true prophet who speaks the word of God.