

PREACHING CHRIST FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Introduction

1. A short while ago, I received a sermon suggestion that requested a lesson about Jesus that could be preached completely from the Old Testament.
2. When you consider the fact that in the 1st century, the majority of the preaching and teaching that was done, came from the Old Testament (references to Scripture Acts 17:11; II Tim. 3:16-17 etc.), it makes you wonder if we could effectively preach and teach a lesson from the Old Testament that would lead someone to know Jesus. When the eunuch was taught in Acts 8:32-35,

“Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH." The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please {tell me} of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

3. I want to try and meet the requests of this sermon suggestion and point to the Old Testament texts that reveal Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives.
4. I would ask at this time that you would use your imagination: You do not have the New Testament and you have never read its pages before. You are seated in an old Palestinian home with some early disciples of Jesus, just after His death, burial and resurrection. None of the gospels have been written and very few of the Acts of the Apostles has taken place. There are no letters to churches, because they have not been established and there are no general epistles written to individual Christians. You do not have the Revelation of Jesus Christ and so you do not have a guarantee of what is yet to come to pass. You come into the room and you see a man opening and unrolling several scrolls that contained portions of the Old Testament...and he begins to read...

I. Regarding The Birth Of Jesus...The Reader Would Say...

- A. That “Jesus was born of a woman and defeated Satan. The woman who gave birth to Jesus was a virgin and Jesus was of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah and of the house of David just as God had promised. His birth took place in Bethlehem and He was preceded by one like Elijah who would prepare the way for His coming.”
- B. Now allow me to read the passages from the OT that pertain to the birth of Christ:

“[The first mention of a Savior] And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." / [In promise of the Savior's coming] "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." / [God said to Abraham] "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." / [God promised to bless His people] "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him {shall be} the obedience of the peoples." / [Jesus would be of the lineage of David] Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious." / "Behold, {the} days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, "The LORD our righteousness." / [The birthplace of Jesus] "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, {too} little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." / [In the sending of a forerunner] "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts." / “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to {their} children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come

and smite the land with a curse." / A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. "Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see {it} together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

-Texts taken from Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Gen. 22:18 ; Gen. 49:10; Isa. 11:10; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 5:2; Mal. 3:1; 4:5; Isa. 40:3-5.

II. Regarding The Life And Ministry Of Jesus...The Reader Would Say...

- A. That, "Jesus worked mighty miracles and served others in His ministry, had a triumphant entry into Jerusalem and was then betrayed by His own (the Jews). He was then betrayed by a close friend for a small amount of money and turned into authorities. Finally, Jesus was betrayed by His own disciples and after being led into the hands of His accusers, Jesus was silent before them."
- B. Now allow me to read the passages from the OT that pertain to the life and ministry of Jesus:

"[In preparing for the mighty works of Jesus] Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come {with} vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you." Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy..." / [Informing of the humble serving Savior] "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout {in triumph} O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey." / [Problems with accepting Christ] "Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, {and} a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. "Many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught." / [Regarding the person of the Christ being forsaken] "For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no {stately} form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." / [Jesus would be betrayed and rejected] "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. But you, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up, that I may repay them." / "For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear {it;} nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend..." / [The payment for betrayal] I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give {me} my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty {shekels} of silver as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, {that} magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty {shekels} of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD." / [The Christ would be betrayed by friends and family] "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man, My Associate," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; and I will turn My hand against the little ones." / [Jesus does not return evil for evil] But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and {I am} like a mute man who does not open his mouth. Yes, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no arguments." / "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth."

-Texts taken from Isa. 35:4-6; Zech 9:9; Isa. 8:14-15; 53:2-3; Ps 41:9-10; 55:12-13; Zech 11:12-13; 13:7; Ps 38:13-14; Isa 53:7.

III. Regarding The Suffering And Death Of Jesus...The Reader Would Say...

- A. That, “Jesus was scourged and mocked in humiliation and His hands and feet were pierced. Jesus suffered the same suffering of a sinner, while He committed no sin of His own. He was reviled and scorned, and when He became thirsty, His accusers gave Him gall and vinegar. While suffering in His death, none of His bones were broken, but His garments were taken from Him and they were parted among those who stood by. Jesus suffered a very violent death and yet to make sure that He was dead, He was pierced through with a spear to verify that His life was gone. Even though Jesus died with criminals, He was buried in a place with the rich.”
- B. Now allow me to read the passages from the OT that pertain to the suffering and death of Jesus:

“[Jesus was beaten and abused] I gave My back to those who strike {me} and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.” / [Jesus was crucified] “For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.” / [Jesus suffered a sinners death] “... He poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.” / [Jesus was mocked] All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, {saying} "Commit {yourself} to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him." / [Jesus was mistreated] “They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” / [In describing specifics about His death] “He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken.” / [Jesus was embarrassed] “I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” / [He took our sins and sorrows] “By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke {was due?}” / [We are blessed because of the suffering (pierced with a spear) and brutal death of Jesus] "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” / [Jesus although dying with the wicked was buried as the rich] “His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.”

-Texts taken from Isa 50:6; Ps 22:16; Isa 53:12; Ps 22:7-8; 69:21; 34:20; 22:17-18; Isa 53:8; Zech 12:10; Isa 53:9

IV. Regarding The Resurrection And Ascension Of Jesus...The Reader Would Say...

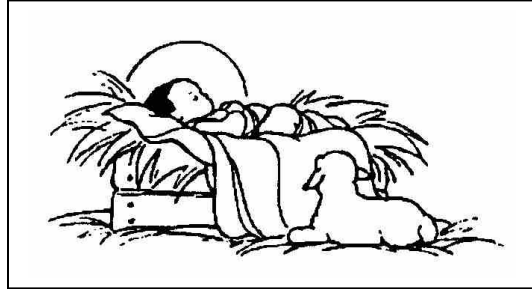
- A. That, “Jesus did not continue to remain dead and His flesh did not see corruption. He was raised by the power of the Spirit and was alive again. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, to rule and reign over His kingdom forever and ever.
- B. Now allow me to read the passages in the OT that pertain to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus

“[The body of Jesus would be raised and not suffer decay] For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will you allow your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures forever.” / [Jesus ascended to be with God and was delivered from death unto life] “You have ascended on high, you have led captive {your} captives; you have received gifts among men, even {among} the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell {there.} Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God {who} is our salvation. Selah. God is to us a God of deliverances; and to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.” / [Jesus was worthy of the life that was given to Him] “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

-Texts taken from Ps 16:10-11; 68:18-20; 24:3-5

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. He was to be born of woman:
The first indication of a savior
Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14
2. He was to be born of a virgin:
Mt. 1:22
3. He was to be of the seed of Abraham:
Gal. 3:16; Acts 3:25; Heb. 2:16
4. He was of the tribe of Judah:
Heb. 7:14
5. He was of the house of David:
Rom. 1:3; Mt. 1:1
6. His place of birth was designated:
Mt. 2:1-5
7. He was to be preceded by a remarkable
person resembling Elijah:
Mt. 3:1-2



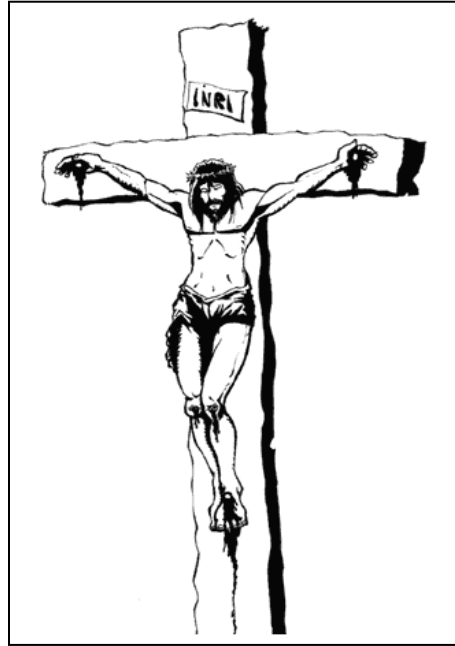
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS

8. He was to work miracles:
John 9:7; Mk. 7:32; Mt. 15:30; Jn. 5:8; etc.
9. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem:
Mt. 21:4-5
10. He was rejected by His own, the Jews:
Jn. 1:11
11. Betrayed by a friend:
Jn. 13:18
12. The price of betrayal:
Mt. 27:9-10
13. Deserted by His disciples;
Mt. 26:56
14. To be silent before His accusers:
Mt. 27:12-14; Acts 8:30-32



THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF JESUS

15. He was scourged and mocked:
Mt. 27:26; 26:67
16. His hands and feet were to be pierced:
Jn. 19:16; 20:25
(This is most amazing, because when the Psalmist spoke, punishment by crucifixion was not known to exist.)
17. He was numbered with transgressors:
Jn. 19:17-18; Mt. 27:38
18. He was to be reviled on the cross:
Mt. 27:41-43
19. He was to drink gall and vinegar:
Mt. 27:33-34
20. No bones were to be broken:
Jn. 19:31-33
21. His garments were to be parted:
Jn. 19:23-24
22. His death was to be violent:
Jn. 19:16
23. He was to be pierced:
Jn. 19:34
24. His grave was to be made with the rich:
Mt. 27:57, 60



THE RESURECCTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS

25. He was not to see corruption:
Acts 2:29-31
26. He was to ascend to the Father on High:
Eph. 4:8; Acts 1:9; Phil. 2:9-11

