

A Two Act Play

Luke 24:27; I Corinthians 15:3-4

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (I Cor. 15:3-4). “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Lk. 24:27). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and *it is they that bear witness about Me*, yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life” (Jn. 5:39). “When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘I have come to do your will, O God, *as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book*’” (Ps. 40:6-8).

There are many different ways that Christ is revealed in the Old Testament, including by His titles; His work as Creator; His role as the sustainer of God’s creation; His appearances (the “Christophanies”); the “types” and “portraits” of persons, institutions, events, and ceremonies pointing to Him; the Old Testament offices of prophet, priest, and king that prefigure His perfect work to come; God’s promises, especially the TWO COVENANTS that find their ultimate fulfillment in Him.

“The Old Testament was written to give credit to the New, when it should be manifested in the world. It must be read by us to give strength to our faith, and establish us in the doctrine of Christianity. How many view it as a bare story, an almanac out of date, and regard it as a dry bone, without sucking from it the evangelical marrow! Christ is, in Genesis, Abraham’s seed; in David’s Psalms and the prophets, the Messiah and Redeemer of the world.” **Stephen Charnock**

“We must distinguish between the Old Testament and the New Testament on the one hand, and the Old Covenant and the New Covenant on the other. The Old Testament is a literary document that includes a written record of redemptive history. It provides a historical account of the legal contract God entered into with the Israelites at Mt. Sinai, which formed the basis of God’s relationship to the nation of Israel. This contract is called the Old Covenant. The New Testament is also a literary document that includes the history of the early Christian Church. It records, among other things, the institution of a new contract between God and His people, which benefits all mankind. This contract is called the New Covenant and its mediator is Jesus Christ. ***The New Covenant supersedes the Old Covenant, but that doesn’t mean the New Testament supersedes the Old Testament***, and we should be mindful of this distinction.” David Limbaugh, *The Emmaus Code* (p. 524 Kindle edition)

The Old Testament prepares our hearts for the revelations of the New Testament. In fact, NT writers themselves believed that the OT is foundational to the New, as evidenced by their voluminous quotes from and allusions to the OT. Depending on how liberally you define “quotations,” some say there are at least **295 New Testament quotations from the Old Testament**, which occupy 352 verses. If you add the New Testament’s clear allusions to the Old Testament, the numbers grow substantially, with some maintaining that **more than 10 percent of the New Testament text comprises citations or direct allusions to the Old Testament**. The Book of Revelation alone has some 331 allusions to the OT.

Generation: God’s creation of man in His image and placing Him in paradise.

Degeneration: man sins and loses his place in paradise (the fall).

Regeneration: man’s regaining of paradise.

Jesus told us in no uncertain terms that He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (Matthew 5: 17).