

Jesus in the Old Testament

Jesus said to the Jews in John 5:39, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me” (NASB). If you don’t read Jesus when you read the Old Testament, you’re doing it wrong.

Rebekah:

The Old Testament	The Testimony Concerning Jesus
Abram seeks to give a bride to Isaac (Gen 24:3-4).	The Father gives the Church to His Son (Jn 17:24).
Abram sends his head servant, Eliezer (meaning “God is/of help”), represent Abram and bears witness about Isaac (Gen 24:2).	The Helper (Spirit) who is with us, sent from the Father, bears witness about Jesus (Jn 15:26).
Rebekah is purchased (Gen 24: 22, 47, 53).	The Church was bought with a price (1 Cor 6:20).
Rebekah is blessed to be the mother of thousands who would own/control the gates of their enemy (Gen 24:60).	The gates of Hell shall not prevail against the Church (Mt 16:18), which is the culmination of the promise to Abram (Gen 12:3).
Rebekah, now belonging to Isaac but not yet with him, travels with Eliezer and already enjoys the blessings of her new family (Gen 24:53, 61).	We know we belong to Jesus because of the Spirit (1 Jn 4:13). We are given now, by promise, everything we need (2 Pet 1:3-4).
Isaac goes out to meet Rebekah (Gen 24:63-65).	Jesus will descend from Heaven and meet us in the air (1 Thess 4:16-17).
Rebekah, belonging to Isaac but having never seen him, becomes one flesh with Him (Gen 24:67).	We are God's children now, and <u>what we will be</u> has not yet appeared; but we know that <u>when he appears we shall be like him</u> , because we shall see him as he is (1 Jn 3:2).

The Seed Line:

Jesus has been the story as early as Genesis 3:15 when the LORD God said to the serpent,

*“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.”*

From then on, the story of the Old Testament has been about keeping this promise in the preservation of the Seed line:

Gen 4:25 *“...she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, ‘God has appointed me another seed in place of Abel...’”*

Gen 6:17-18 *“... I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all ... But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark...”*

Gen 12:2-3 *“And I will make you [Abram] a great nation... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

Gen 17:19 *“But God said, ‘No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.’”*

Gen 22:18 *“In your [Abraham’s] seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*

Gen 25:21 *“Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.”*

Gen 28:14 *“...in you [Jacob] and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*

Gen 49:10 *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes....”*

Ex 2:23-24 *“And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out... So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”*

Ruth 4:13, 17 *“So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.” “So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.”*

2 Sam 7:8-13 *“...say to My servant David, ‘I will raise up your descendant after you... and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.’”*

1 Kgs 11:11, 13 *“So the Lord said to Solomon, “...I will surely tear the kingdom from you....”
“However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David....”*

2 Kgs 8:13 *“However, the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give a lamp to him through his sons always.”*

Is 10:20 *“Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped... will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.”*

Gal 3:16 *“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.”*

Eph 1:4-5 *“...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself....”*

Eph 3:9-11 *“...the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church... This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Yahweh:

We have a tendency to think that Jesus doesn't appear until the second act of the Bible. But more than being present, or even active, in the Old Testament, Jesus claims to be the Yahweh of the Jews. *"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'"* (Jn 8:58, ESV). Consider these other verses about Jesus' presence and activity in the Old Testament:

Jn 1:1-3 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

Lk 20:27 *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."*

1 Cor 10:1-4 *"...our fathers ... all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."*

Heb 11:24-26 *"By faith Moses ... considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."*

Jude 5 *"Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe."*

Jacob's Dream:

Do you remember Jacob's dream? *"And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it [or beside him] ..."* (Gen 28:12-13, ESV). Do you know what it was about? It was in this dream that God gave the Seed promise to Jacob, as He did to Abraham and Isaac, *"...and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed"* (Gen 28:14). Jesus made reference to this promise when He said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man"* (Jn 1:51). In Genesis, the angels were ascending and descending upon the LORD who was beside. In John, Jesus claims that the angels were ascending and descending upon the Son of Man, Jesus' favorite self-reference. Not only does this equate Jesus with Yahweh, but it ties Jesus to the fulfillment of the Seed promise through which all families of earth would be blessed. The fulfillment of that promise is the gift of Jesus to all families by way of His body, the Church.