

Six Keys to a New Covenant Perspective.

CHRIST PREEMINENT: The Bible, from beginning to end, is the unfolding of the revelation of Jesus Christ as the God-Man-Redeemer of all fallen humanity.

HISTORIC PROMISE AND PRESERVATION of the *Promised Seed* (Christ) forms *the unified core of the Old Testament, ...*

1. *in its Prophetic teaching of Christ and His Kingdom* through...(a) overt *Revelation & Promise*; and (b) *Typological Shadows and Types* (...in the temple-centric cultic of sacrifice and worship in the Law; in the establishing of the tri-fold anointed offices of Prophet, Priest and King; and in divinely orchestrated *Historical Allegory*).

2. *in its historical preservation of the Promise* through...(a) the *sovereign call and providential guiding* of individuals (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, etc); (b) in the establishing of the nation of Israel as the *womb of the Promised Seed*; and (c) in the divine preservation of a *true remnant* within Israel.

Ergo... ***The Law and the Prophets (OT) are the testimony of Christ.***

REALIZED FULFILLMENT: Christ came not to destroy the “*testimony of Himself*” (OT), but to be *the final and complete fulfillment of that scriptural witness to Himself, and thru Him, the full revelation of the nature and character of the Father.*

INDWELLING & UNION: The heart of the New Covenant in Christ, in both its OT promises, and in its NT fulfillment, is *the actual union of every individual in the covenant with God* through the work and ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. Christ is introduced at His coming as the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

SPIRIT'S LEADING: In that NC union, the individual believer receives the witness and leading of Christ—the Great Shepherd of His sheep—as the Holy Spirit illuminates the ‘inscribed’ truth (written upon the heart in regeneration) making a direct connection between the written scriptures (which He wrote!), and the inner reality.

TRANSFORMATION: As the believer communes with his living Lord, beholding His glory, he is being *transformed by the Spirit into the image of Christ* (sanctification). Obedience to external standards (Law) is replaced by the *new and living word in Christ.*

(A fuller outline with references will be available upon request.) ●ejr3

Through the Bible... Part Fourteen

Solomon - Prt 1. The Glorious Reign

So Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from the River (Euphrates) to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. (1Kings 4:21)

And God gave Solomon wisdom, ... He was wiser than all men ... He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. And he spoke of trees, ... of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. (4:29-33)

And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly. (2Chron 1:1)

In Solomon’s reign we find the pinnacle of Israel’s history. She is never again (as a discrete earthly nation) to reach the zenith she enjoyed under Solomon. From Solomon onward, she is fragmented, and most of her kings are wicked. Her occasional revivals are short-lived. Her hope and glory must now transition from a temporal realization of the kingdom, to rest upon the Promised Seed, whose kingdom would be an eternal kingdom in union with God.

So Solomon’s reign is the final OT historical allegory of the promised Messianic Kingdom. Cast across cross his kingdom we see the shadows of that eternal Kingdom. Lets consider this.

This kingdom is reigned over by the son of David. From the *Davidic Covenant* (2Sam 7:12-13) onward, the promised Messiah was enshrined in the epithet “*Son of David*”. The New Testament opens introducing us to the lineage of the *Son of David*, the son of Abraham. The common people often addressed Jesus, “Thou Son of David” (*Matt 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9; 21:15*). Every Jew from childhood up knew the Messiah was to be the Son of David. Jesus, in an amazing exchange with the Pharisees (*Matt 22:41-46*) asks them a ‘kindergarten question’: “The Messiah—whose son is he?” Duh... David’s. He then proceeds to absolutely stumps them with “Then why does David call him, ‘Lord?’” (Ps 110:1). They could not grasp that humanity *and* deity would be united in

the Messiah. As *Son of David* he is the *Son of Man* (apparently His favorite name for himself), but He is also the *Son of God*.

As Solomon takes the throne, **he proceeds to purge the kingdom of all enemies of his father**, including priests (*1Kings 2*). This is exactly what Jesus will do when He takes to himself His rightful reign. Every moral being shall stand before Him and give account (*Matt 25:31-32 Rom 14:11-12; 2Corinth 5:10; Rev 20:11-15*). Every transgression against His Father from the beginning of creation will be justly answered, and none shall be exempted. Only those forgiven and reconciled in His own blood shall stand in that day. Thus all rebellion and evil (and all the effects thereof) shall be forever purged from His kingdom. The long dark reign of sin over the world shall finally and completely end. *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 22:27).*

As a result of God granting his request, **Solomon was the wisest of all kings**. His wise counsel was known and admired throughout the world. He was not only wise in judgment, but he was an extraordinary architect; he taught and wrote extensively of botany, biology, and philosophy (*1Kings 4:29-34*). Through his wisdom the kingdom was extravagantly blessed. In the words of the queen of Sheba, *“Happy are your people and happy are these your servants, who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom” (1Kings 10:8)*. As we look to the consummate kingdom of Christ, those who know Him now do not fear, but long for His reign. He is wise and just (*Isa 11:2; Matt 12:42; 1Corinth 1:24, 30; Col 2:3; Rev 5:12*) and the fruit of His righteous wisdom *shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever (Isa 32:17)*. Again in the words of the queen of Sheba, all shall say...*It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. However I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceeds the fame which I heard.*

The next thing we shall notice is that **the reign of Solomon extends to the full extent of the land**

promised to Abraham's 'natural' descendents through Isaac (*1Kings 4:21, 24; Gen 15:18-21; Joshua 1:3*). From the river Euphrates to the Mediterranean, from Assyria to the river of Egypt, Solomon's kingdom was complete, and all subjects thereof were blessed with peace and prosperity (*1Kings 4:25*). The antitype is always exceedingly greater than type; the reality always greater than the picture: “Jesus shall reign where 'ere the sun, In his successive journeys run” (); *All of creation shall come under His authority and shall be restored to pristine perfection; it shall be the 'playground' of all the His elect, where they, with unbounded joy, shall exist forever to glorify Him.*

Solomon builds the Temple of God in the City of God, and it is even more glorious than the *Tabernacle in the wilderness (1Kings 6 & 7)*. While maintaining the “pattern” revealed to Moses on the mount, Solomon greatly expands its dimensions and decorum. Overall, the temple proper was approximately twice the size of the tabernacle. Its components and furniture were immense. The laver (or 'sea'), for example was 15 feet across and 7 1/2 feet high. The entire interior of the temple was adorned with intricate carvings, and everything overlaid with gold. Again our thoughts are directed to Jesus who is building the true Temple of God. He himself is the Chief Cornerstone (*Ps 118:22; Isa 28:16; Matt 21:42; Eph 2:20; 1Pet 2:6-7*), and He has laid the rest of the foundation with the truth revealed through His apostles and prophets (*Eph 2:20; Rev 21:14*). He is building it to completion with living stones, precious and beautiful, which he has assembled ('churched') upon that foundation (*1Pet 2:5; 2Chron 3:6; Rev 21:19-20*). Though now wandering in the wilderness of this world, the glory of this Temple shall be beyond all expression when Jesus' work is complete. In this Temple God dwells with His redeemed people forever. My brethren, you who are in Christ, are the Temple of God (*1Corinth 3:16; 6:19; 2Corinth 6:16*).

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