

Two Testaments:

The Relationship Between the Old and the New

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God's Plan

Our Loving Father from all eternity has a plan to make one, holy, universal, covenanted people in His Son, Jesus. In the Old Covenant, we had a time of preparation and expectancy. In the new covenant, we have the time of fulfillment. There was also a twofold working of the Holy spirit. In the old covenant, we have the Spirit of God working from above downward through the patriarchs, the prophets, the priests, the covenants, and the kings. In the New Covenant, beginning at Pentecost, we have the Spirit of God working in men and women, working also inward and upward. This is not to be understood that there was no time of fulfillment in the old covenant. Through Ezekiel, God said, "I will put my spirit within you and all will know me from the greater to the less."

The Covenants

After preparing six different covenants with the Israelites, that is with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Ezra, and David, God worked the new and perfect covenant through His Son Jesus. God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in His sight. In this new covenant, all that was prepared for since the time of Adam would be fulfilled.

The Proto-Evangelion

In the first Messianic prophecy in Genesis 3:15, called the Proto-Evangelion or the "First Gospel", God swore an oath to Satan. "I will put total enmity between you and the woman, between her offspring and your offspring. You shall strike at their heels but they shall strike at your head." This was God's new and eternal plan, to form a new Adam and a new Eve, who would bring forth a nation of priests and a holy people filled also inwardly with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew's Purpose – Messianic

Matthew wrote his gospel for the precise purpose of showing that Jesus was the long awaited and prophesied Messiah. He shows, for example, that He was born of a virgin, as was foretold in Isaiah . . . that He would have a ministry in Galilee, as was foretold in Micah and Isaiah . . . that He would be led like a sheep to the slaughter, once again as Isaiah foretold . . . and that they would dig His hands and feet and number all His bones, as David had foretold in Psalm 22, and so forth.

The Total Fulfillment

All four gospel writers would prove that Jesus is the total fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies. There are so many of them and they are written with such detail that even the non-theological mind could not but be impressed by their exactness in showing us that

Jesus is truly THE Messiah, as Peter confessed. There are more than 150 Messianic prophecies, and Jesus fulfilled them all.

Four Types of Jesus

In addition to the prophecies, many of the Old Testament figures and persons were foreshadowings of what is called foretypes of Jesus. Moses was a foretype of Jesus in that he was a prophet. Joseph was a foretype of Jesus in that he too was traded for a few pieces of silver by his own brethren. Isaac was a foretype of Jesus in that he, like Jesus, would be led up a hill by His father with wood on his back to seal the covenant in his blood. Melchizedek was a foretype of Jesus in that he was a priest who offered to God bread and wine. Seth was a foretype of Jesus in that he was the righteous son of his father. David was a foretype of Jesus in that he was king. Ezra was a foretype of Jesus in that he was priest and prophet. The Passover lamb was a foretype of Jesus in that it prefigured the Passover from slavery to freedom by its shed blood and the deliverance of all of God's first-borns.

The Tabernacle

Perhaps the single most striking prefigurement was in the tabernacle that God ordered Moses and the Israelites to build in the desert. The significance of the tabernacle is that it was God's heaven-sent pattern for making men and women holy -- first, the Israelites and then us Gentiles. More ink is spilled in the Scriptures on the tabernacle than on any other object. In fact, one can hardly understand the teachings of Jesus without a firm understanding of the Tabernacle.

My Father's House - The Holy of Holies

Remember at the beginning of Jesus' last supper discourse in John 14 where Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled?" Put your faith in the Father. Put your faith also in me, because in my Father's house, there are many dwelling places and I am going ahead to prepare a place for you so that where I am you also may be" (Jn 14:2). What did Jesus mean by those words? To what did *my Father's house* refer? My Father's house was one of the terms that Jesus' apostles used to describe the *Holy of Holies*. Let us take a good look at the tabernacle because such a richness of holy symbols and Old Testament sacraments are contained therein.

Three Veils Into Holiness

It says in the book of Exodus that Moses obeyed the voice of the Lord in the building of the tabernacle. Nineteen times the book of Exodus refers to this obedience. So the tabernacle is God's heaven-sent plan for sanctification. It is the forerunner of the sacraments and the prototype of the Mass. God first of all told Moses to build an outer court that would separate the symbols of holiness from the world. Moses obeyed.

The Way Door - The First Veil

God told Moses to put one door made of four colored garments in that outer court. One door was called the *Way door*. Moses obeyed. Next, God told Moses to build a brazen altar just inside the way door where goats and lambs could be sacrificed to symbolize the abandonment of idolatry and consecration to the true God. Next, He put a laver where the high priest could be washed and cleansed. Then God said to erect an inner court with two compartments, the holy place and the Holy of Holies.

The Truth Veil -- the Second Veil

The way to enter the holy place was through a second veil called the truth veil. In the holy place, Moses was to erect the golden lampstand made of pure gold, which would be a symbol and a sacrament of divine revelation. To the right, He was to put the table of shewbread, which would later symbolize the Eucharist. And then, He was asked to put the daily incense altar where the high priest could worship God in spirit and in truth.

The Life Veil - The Third Veil

Finally, God told Moses to put another veil before the Holy of Holies called the life veil; and in the Holy of Holies to put the Ark of the Covenant, which was to contain the second tablet of the law plus Aaron's rod, which miraculously budded, and a pot of some of the manna gathered in the desert.

The Glory Falls

After Moses repeatedly obeyed the Lord, the tabernacle was finished. The book of Exodus tells us, "And then the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Ex 40:34). It was visible to the Israelites. By night, it was like the fire. By day, it was like a cloud. God's manifest dwelling was now seen among the people. The glory of the Lord shown over His own.

When Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth and the life*, He was referring to the three veils of the tabernacle. In short, He was saying that He was the new way into the manifest presence of God; He was the new tabernacle. Through Him, the glory of the Lord would shine upon His people.

Lifelong Lessons

The tabernacle prefigures the spirituality of the Church today.

- The *way veil* is symbolic for a personal relationship with Jesus, who alone is the way to the Father. No one comes to the Father except through Him.
- The *brazen altar* symbolizes total consecration to His heart as well as to the immaculate heart of His mother.
- The *laver* points to the sacrament of reconciliation and the total cleansing of our sins through the blood of the lamb slain upon the cross.
- The *truth veil* symbolized ongoing revelations fulfilled most perfectly in Jesus, the light of the world.
- The *golden lampstand* prefigures the way that the Spirit of God enlightens our minds through meditation upon the scriptures and ongoing openness to the spirit of wisdom.

- The *table of shewbread* most obviously symbolized the Eucharist, the bread of life and the new manna for God's people.
- The *daily incense altar* is a prefigurement of daily Mass, which offers a continual sacrifice of praise and worship.
- The *life veil*, the author of Hebrews tells us, symbolizes the crucified body of Christ, through whose cross we are both set free and sanctified.
- The *Holy of Holies* symbolized Mary, the new ark of the covenant, the new bearer of God's Holy Spirit.
- The *pot of manna* symbolizes the constant flow of graces made daily present for all of God's children.
- *The cloud* symbolized the manifest presence of God in His people.
- And *the glory* symbolizes the unity that God wishes for His Church. "The glorious unity of being one as Thou Father in me and I in Thee" (Jn 17).

So we can see that God was teaching His people surrender, consecration, obedience, forgiveness, meditation, communion, self-sacrifice, silence, awe, worship, and unity.

The Total Fulfillment of All Messianic Prophecies

It was foretold that Jesus would be the "offspring of a woman" whom God had placed in "total enmity" with Satan (Gen 3:15); the promised offspring of Abraham (Gen 18:8) through Israel (Gen 17:9) through Jacob (Nu 24:17), from the tribe of Judah (Gen 45:10); that Bethlehem would be His birthplace (Mic 5:2) in 490 plus 49 years after Daniel's prophecy, and that He would be the Christ, the Anointed One (Dan 9:25); that infants would be slaughtered because of Him (Jer 31:19), but He would escape to Egypt (Hos 11:11); that He would be "the prophet" like Moses (Dt 18:15); that He would ride triumphantly onto Mt. Zion on a donkey (Zec 9:9); that He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zec 11:12), money which would buy a potter's field (Zec 11:13); that His side would be pierced (Zec 12:10), yet not a bone would be broken (Ex 12:46, Ps 34:20); and He would be grieved as one grieves for a first born son (Zec 12:10).

Especially Those of Isaiah and the Psalms

Isaiah and David especially foretold major events of Jesus' life. In Isaiah and the Psalms, it was foretold that He would be an heir of the throne of David (Is 9:7); that He would be born of a virgin (Is 7:14); that He would have a life-giving ministry in Galilee (Is 9:1-2); that He would be a priest like Melchizedek (Ps 110:4), yet rejected by the Jews (Is 53:3); that He would have the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, purity and fear of the Lord (Is 11:2; cf Ps 45:7, Is 11:34); that He would be betrayed by a friend (Ps 41:9); that Judas' place would be taken by another (Ps 109:7-8); that false witnesses would accuse Him (Ps 27:12), yet He would remain silent (Is 53:17), struck and spat upon (Is 50:6), hated without cause (Ps 69:4), yet by His stripes we would be healed, that He would take upon our infirmities, carry our sorrows, pierced and smitten for our transgressions, cursed for our iniquities, yet by His stripes we would be healed (Is 53:12); with hands and feet pierced (Ps 22:16), He would be mocked and insulted, as a worm and not a man (Ps 22:6-8), given gall to drink (Ps 69:21), would hear His prophetic words repeated in mockery (Ps 22:8), yet He would pray for His enemies (Ps 109:4); that they would divide His garments and cast lots for them (Ps 22:18); He would be buried with the

rich and assigned a grave with the wicked although He had done no violence and there was no deceit in His mind (Is 53:9), but God would not abandon Him to the grave nor allow Him God's Holy One to decay (Ps 16:10); and that when He had ascended on high, He would lead the captives in His train, that He would receive gifts from men even the rebellious (Ps 68:18).

Jesus Is Everywhere in the Old Testament

Remember that beautiful scene of the resurrected Christ with the two discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus opened their eyes to all the scriptures concerning Himself. So for those who have eyes to see, Jesus is in every Old Testament book of the Bible. Go back to Genesis and there He is as "the seed of a woman and the new Adam." In Exodus, He is there as the Passover lamb. In Leviticus, He is there as a high priest. In Numbers, He is there as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In Deuteronomy, He is there as a prophet just like Moses. In Joshua, He is there as a captain of our salvation. In Judges, He is our judge and lawgiver. In Ruth, He is our gentle redeemer. In Samuel, He is a trusty prophet. In Chronicles, He is a reigning king. In Ezra, Jesus is our faithful scribe. In Nehemiah, he is the rebuilders of the broken down walls of our lives. In Esther, He is our Mordichiah. In Psalms, He is the Lord our shepherd. In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He is our wisdom. In the Song of Solomon, He is lover and the bridegroom.

He is everywhere. In Isaiah, He is the son of the virgin and our prince of peace. In Jeremiah, He is a righteous branch. In Lamentation, He is a weeping prophet. In Ezekiel, He is that wheel turning. In Daniel, you know Him as that fourth man in the fiery furnace. In Hosea, He is the faithful bridegroom seeking his faithless bride. In Joel, He is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit and fire. In Amos, He is a burden bearer and lover of the poor. In Jonah, He is a great foreign missionary. In Micah, He is the messenger with the beautiful feet carrying the gospel. In Nehum, He is the avenger of God's elect. In Habakkuk, He is that great evangelist crying for revival. In Zephaniah, He is the restorer of God's lost heritage. In Haggai, He is the cleansing fountain. In Zechariah, He is that merciful father. In Malachi, He is the son of righteousness rising with healing in His wings. In First Maccabees, He is the great warrior against evil. In Second Maccabees, He is the beloved son, who sheds His blood to be faithful to the will of the Father. In Sirach, He is incarnate wisdom. In Tobit, He is the healer. He is everywhere.

Jesus and the Covenants

Each of the covenants were fulfilled in Jesus. He made the Israelite covenants universal and Catholic. He founded a new covenant in His blood, which He called His Church. As David and Solomon before Him, He chose a prime minister for that Church to govern in His absence. But He would never be truly absent from His followers, whom He commissioned: "Go therefore making disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you, and know I am with you always, even to the consummation of the world."

Yes, Jesus is the consummation of the world. He is its omega point. All history points to Him. In fact, history is split in two because of Him--the time before and the time after His

birth. He is also its starting point -- its alpha. Everything that comes to be is in Him and through Him. What was foretold and prefigured in the Old Covenant was perfected by Him in the New Covenant. And so, the Old Covenant is the new Covenant prepared for. And the New Covenant is the Old Covenant fulfilled. As it was in the beginning, it would be now and ever more.

The Catholic Church

God's Plan prepared for in the old covenants, tabernacle and temple was fulfilled in the one, holy, universal and apostolic covenanted people of God, the Catholic Church. Jesus would found a Church upon Peter and imbue it with His own divine life. He would make it a pillar and standard of truth and His own bride, His new temple, His new dwelling place with men. His people would be the family of God on earth. Because God is a family, His people would be a family. Because God has chosen to deal with His people by oaths and covenants, His people would be sacramental and covenanted. Because God is one, His Church would be one. Because God is holy, His Church would have all the means of holiness. Because God loves everyone, His Church would be universal or Catholic. And because God is love diffusive of itself, His Church would be apostolic and founded upon apostolic leaders.

Because God is a faithful spouse, the Church would be His only bride. And because God is especially love and mercy, His Church would be commanded to be loving and merciful so that all men could receive the graceful love and mercy of God. This Church would be the fulfillment of all that was foretold. It would have the wisdom of Solomon, the priestliness of Melchizedek and Ezra, the prophetic flow of Isaiah and Jeremiah, the leadership of Abraham and Moses, the long-suffering of Job and the sons of Maccabee, the gratefulness of Esther and Ruth, and the glory of the tabernacle and the temple,