

THE CROSS BEFORE CALVARY

Text: Luke 24:44-47

INTRO: Sometimes the O.T. in its entirety is lumped together & called “the law.” Sometimes it is further broken down into “the law & the prophets.” In our text, Jesus breaks the Scriptures down into 3 distinct categories: the law, the prophets & the psalms. Jesus insists that each of these sections of Scripture contain specific reference to His sacrificial death & His resurrection. Let us take a closer look.

I. THE LAW—THE WRITINGS OF MOSES.

A. In the dawn of time, God began to make Himself known to mankind thru the heads of families. From the time man sinned, God began to accept animal sacrifices which were offered to atone for sin. Abel, Gen. 4:4; Noah, Gen 8:20; Abraham, Gen 12:7, etc.

B. With the giving of the written law to Moses & the Israelites in EX 20, an elaborate system of animal sacrifice was instituted. Every blood sacrifice pictured, foreshadowed, or was a **type** of the death of Christ for human sin.

Heb 9:21-26, And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

II. THE DEATH & RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS ALSO FORETOLD IN THE WRITINGS OF THE O.T. PROPHETS.

- A. The books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings were called the former prophets; Isaiah thru Malachi were called the latter prophets. These writings contained references to Christ's death & resurrection.

1 Peter 1:9-10, Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

- B. Let us look at a few prophecies re the crucifixion.
Isaiah 53

Dan 9:26, And after the 62 weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself...

2 Sam 7:12-13 (We will look later at a parallel passage)

- C. Reference to the resurrection: Isa 53:10-12

III. THE 3RD & FINAL DIVISION OF THE O.T. LAW WAS CALLED THE PSALMS OR THE WRITINGS. THIS PORTION CONTAINED THE POETIC PORTIONS AND THE WRITINGS OF CHRONICLES, RUTH, EZRA, NEHEMIAH & ESTHER.

- A. Psalm 22 contains a description of the crucifixion almost as full as that of the eyewitnesses who wrote in the N.T.

- B. Passages in this section foretelling Christ's resurrection:

Ps 16:10, For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Ps 132:11, The LORD has sworn in truth to David;

He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

Peter, by Divine inspiration linked these 2 passages together and commented thusly: Acts 2:25-33, For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead & buried, & his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

CONCLUSION: Thus we see that truly the death & resurrection of Jesus was foretold many times in the law & in the prophets & in the Psalms. It is now to be preached as a fact of history in order that repentance & remission of sins may result.

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