

As we continue this transition from the Old Testament into the New Testament
I want you to remember what Martin Luther said about the Bible

"The Bible" he said, "is the cradle that holds the Christ child."

As as one pastor put it:

"The Bible is a book about Jesus, and when we take our eyes off Jesus,
we lose our way around the Bible."¹

"You can't understand the OT without Christ and you can't understand Christ without the Old
Testament."

In the Old Testament Jesus is predicted

- in the Gospels Jesus is revealed
- in the acts of the apostles Jesus is preached
- in the epistles Jesus is explained
- and in the book of Revelation Jesus' 2nd coming is anticipated

Without the New Testament, the Old Testament goes nowhere.

Think about it.

Without the New Testament, the Old Testament is like a road that you are following along, and
along and along, and eventually, it just comes to a wall of granite with nowhere to turn,
nowhere to go. It just doesn't make any sense without the New Testament.

And without the Old Testament, the New Testament demands all kinds of explanations, like:

"what do you mean fulfilled?"

"what do you mean Messiah?"

"and what do you mean prophet, priest, or king?"

That's why some have said, it takes a whole Bible to make a whole Christian.

And it's not just that the New Testament fulfills certain predictions, it does,

For example, Isaiah 7 says to look for a sign...

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel which means God
with us."

And in Micah chapter 5, it says, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel”

But Jesus doesn't just fulfill certain Old Testament expectations or predictions, Jesus fulfills the entire Old Testament.

In fact, the only way to understand the entire Old Testament is in the person and work of Jesus. That's what we see revealed to us this morning in each of the stories captured in Chapter 23 of *The Story*; starting with Jesus' baptism.

Think about what that event reveals to us about Jesus.

I love the way the writer of the Storybook Bible put it:

Because God loves us with a Never Stopping,
Never Giving up, Unbreaking,
Always and Forever Love
...heaven is breaking through!

God is sending us a Light from Heaven
to shine on us like the sun

To shine on those who live in darkness

And in the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace!

Heaven was breaking through in Bethlehem.

And Heaven was breaking through on the day Jesus was baptized.

God was announcing who Jesus is.

When Jesus came up out of the water a voice came from heaven saying,

““You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Now if you think about that – it's mind blowing.

It means that Jesus has no peers.

Jesus has no rivals, no successors.

No one in the entire universe comes close to Jesus of Nazareth.

Either we are seriously mistaken— that the entire Bible is about Jesus –
or whole the Bible is about Him.

Remember the story I told you about Jane Fonda meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury. when the Archbishop says to Jane Fonda, “Jesus is the Son of God you know.”

And Jane Fonda replies, “Well, he may be the Son of God to you, but he’s not for me.”

And the Archbishop says, “Jane, he either is, or he isn’t, period.”
There is no in between.

That’s why Jesus asked his disciples “who do you people say that I am?”
And then he turned to them and asked them, who do **you** say that I am?

A pastor tells the story about the time his father went away for a business trip for three months. Three months is a long time for a 10 year old boy.

But what he remembers most was not about the time his father was away,
but what he specifically remembered was the way things change when his dad returned home.

The whole atmosphere of the whole house changed.

He remembers:

- the sound of his father’s voice
- his presence
- his mother's contentment

everything changed when his father came into the house.

All of history changed when God became flesh,
entered the world and walked on the earth.

Ever since Jesus has been on this earth history has been different.
God is in our house.

We can hear his voice.

We can sense his presence.

and thanks to the teachings of the New Testament we have access to the great promises God has spoken and revealed in Jesus Christ.

We see that in his teaching, in each story we read in the Gospels.

We see that in his death, burial and resurrection.

The Bible says, “Jesus is the anchor of our hope.”

Nothing else will hold you and keep you safe through the storms of life.

We live not as people who are crushed under the burdens of the law;
striving to earn God’s favor.

Rather we live as a people showered in God’s forgiveness
and claimed and adopted as children of God.

What a difference it makes to live knowing that we are God’s beloved.

Because the very words directed to Jesus by the Father at his baptism,
are also directed to us. “You are my beloved son.”

“You are my beloved daughter.”

What a joy it is to live with that knowledge.

To know that God is with us, walking with us,
empowering us through His Spirit to love God and love others with a willing spirit.

Heaven broke through and God is in our house.
May you live in that freedom today and every day. Amen.

¹ Alistair Begg