



## HOMEWORK FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2024

We have reviewed how everything in the Old Testament points ahead to Christ at the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Covenant. The whole biblical story, beginning to end, Genesis to Revelation, centers around Jesus. Everything in the Old Testament leads up to Jesus and everything in the New Testament flows from Jesus. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the climax and the center of the biblical story; it is given more literary space than any other topic in the entire Bible. This is the key to our faith, the whole point of it.

*"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile. You are still in your sins"*

*"If Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless and so is your faith"*

(1 Corinthians 15:17, 14)

Jesus told the people that Moses "wrote of me" (John 5:46) and that the Scriptures "testify about me" (John 5:39-40). The disciples said, "We have found the One of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote" (John 1:45). Jesus told the people that the Scriptures were being fulfilled in Him (Luke 4:21), that He was here to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43).

Jesus fulfills every promise of the Old Testament, at every point of biblical history. At every point along the way, God promises One who is to come who will be their Savior and King and usher in the kingdom of God, the Messiah (anointed one). As we study the New Testament, we will continually look back to the Old Testament for all the ways God foretold the story and how all the promises He made were fulfilled.

Our faith is not about a list of rules or a theological system, it's about a Person – the Person of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, the third Person of the Trinity, made incarnate as Jesus of Nazareth in the real-life world of first century Roman-occupied Israel. Everything we study about the New Testament will center around the Person of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus as the central climactic moment of God's redemption plan to save the world.

Look at the questions on the back side. Which one/s come to the forefront for you (either because they are good for pondering, or maybe because you don't really know what your answer is)? Spend time this week reflecting on, journaling about, or discussing with a friend over coffee:

- Why does it matter that our faith is about a relationship with a Person instead of a set of rules or a religious system? How does it change the way we think about faith? About spirituality? About what it means to be a Christian?
- How does that affect the way we live it out? Our prayer life? The way we treat other people? Our mission and purpose in life? The way we spend our time and money? Everything else?
- How would you respond to someone who sees the Old Testament God as vengeful and wrathful, but the New Testament God as gracious and compassionate?
- Reflect on your own relationship with Jesus. What makes you feel close to Him? In what ways do you struggle to be more like Him? What practices and disciplines help you connect with Him? How can you learn more about Him? How can you deepen your relationship with Him?
- What difference has it made in your life to be in relationship with Jesus? Not just your long-term eternal salvation, but in your day-to-day? How is your life different with Jesus than it would be without Him?

Pray for God to speak to you through His word, to open your heart and mind to what you may need to know, and to help you speak boldly and confidently to others about your faith.