

RML Overview briefing slot

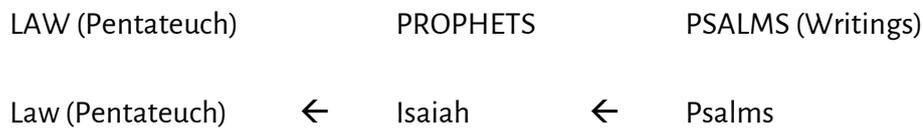
The New Testament use of the Old Testament

Introduction

You may find this topic sounds boring, but it really matters!

How the Old Testament (OT) relates to the New Testament (NT)

- Both OT (e.g. 2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 9:8-9; Psalm 119:60) and NT (e.g. 1 Tim. 5:18 (cf. Luke 10:7); 2 Peter 3:15-16; Rev. 22:18-19 (cf. Deut. 4:2)) have divine authority
- The OT is self-contained whole (Luke 24:44) with a self-interpreting message (Luke 24:45-47; John 5:46-47)



- The NT does not overthrow the OT, but answers to its authoritative, messianic message

‘These are written [i.e. John’s Gospel] so that you may believe [i.e. have faith] that Jesus [i.e. the historical God-man of the NT] is the Christ [the promised Messiah of the OT], the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.’ – John 20:31

- The NT respects the wider literary context of the OT when referencing it, just as the tip of the iceberg points to a greater structure beneath¹



¹ This illustration and image comes from *The Story Retold: A Biblical Theological Introduction to the New Testament*, G.K. Beale and Benjamin L. Gladd (IVP Academic, 2020)

How the New Testament uses the Old Testament

Three examples to start us off:

1. Hebrews 8:8-12 **quoting** Jeremiah 31:31-34

Deuteronomy 29-31 ← Jeremiah ← Hebrews 8:8-12

2. 1 Peter 2:9 **alluding** to Exodus 19:5-6

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel. (Exodus 19:5-6)

Cf. also Isaiah 43:16-21

3. Galatians 4:1-7 **drawing on OT concepts** of slavery and sonship

Slavery and sonship as exodus concepts

Cf. how Isaiah speaks of a new exodus and Galatians knows it:
<https://twitter.com/DocHarmon/status/1220801268781699072>

(Optional) further thinking

How do the examples from Mark's Gospel below use the OT? Are they using it in a new way to what we've discussed here? Are they combining different uses? What points are they making by referencing the OT?

- The use of Isaiah 40:3 in Mark 1:2-3 (cf. also Malachi 3:1 and Exodus 23:20)
- The use of Isaiah 52:13 and 53:12 in Mark 10:45
- The use of Daniel 7:13-14 in Mark 14:62
- The use of Genesis 1:3-5 and Exodus 10:21-23 in Mark 15:33