



**Coptic Orth. Patriarchate
Bishopric of Youth**

Christ of the Prophecies

**H.G Bishop Moussa
Bishop of Youth**

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Introduction

Some people attempt to belittle the holiness of the Old Testament, that is why I took the opportunity to connect the two Testaments through Christ's Birth because the Christ, whom the prophets prophesied about, is the same Christ who was born in the manger. Our great teacher Jesus Christ said:

Mat 5:17-18 (NKJV) “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”.

And: Rev. 22:19 (NKJV) “and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”.

So if anyone claims that this applies only to Revelation, we can say that:

2Tim. 3:16 (NKJV) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”

The book referred to here is the Holy Bible which includes both Testaments. Our teacher Peter the Apostle says:

2Pet. 1:20-21 (NKJV) *“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”.*

2 Pet. 1:19 (NKJV) *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”;*

The New Testament is strongly connected to the Old Testament and our Lord Jesus Christ is of both Testaments. St. Augustine said: “ The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is clarified in the New Testament.”

Chapter 1



Christ of the Prophecies

Some people do not consider the Old Testament as Holy as the New Testament, Why? What is the correct Christian stand on the Old Testament?

Why Believe In the Holiness Of The Old Testament?

Without any doubt, the Church's Christian viewpoint on the Old Testament is that it was written by the Holy Spirit. Also the writers of the Biblical Books were aided by the Holy Spirit, hence did not write of their own accord. More so, the Lord Christ and the books of the New Testament confirmed the holiness of the Old Testament.

We base our reasoning on the following;

A: Sayings of the Lord Jesus.

B: The testimony of the Four Gospels.

C: The testimony of the Epistles.

D: The testimony of the Book of Revelation.

A. Sayings of the Lord Jesus.

"I Came To Compliment"

Mat. 5:17-18 (NKJV) "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

(Fulfillment, here means to continue the aim of the Law i.e. to recognize and acknowledge the Lord Christ as the Messiah. Also to empower the human race through the Holy Spirit to apply the Law. To make the human being perfect in order to form the law through renewing the human nature by the Holy Spirit. It is also completing the commandment so that it may not stop at the action itself like adultery or killing but to reach the forces hidden behind the action like desire or hatred....etc.)

Search The Scriptures

John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life."

Mat. 22:29 (NKJV) "Jesus answered and said to them "you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God".

But From The Beginning It Was Not So

Mat. 19:8 (NKJV) “Moses He Said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so”.

This teaching of is taken from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Deu. 24:1-4 (NKJV) “When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife, 3 if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 Then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as inheritance”.

“That All Things Must Be Fulfilled”

Luke 24:44-49 (NKJV) “Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scripture 46 Then he said to them, “ Thus is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance the remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things 49 ‘Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

“For As Jonah Was ...” Mat. 12:38-41 (NKJV) “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” 39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here”.

Here the Lord is talking about Jonah, the calling of Jonah and the repentance of the people of Nineveh. The similarity is clear between the sign of Jonah and Lord Jesus Christ. This refutes the attempt to make the story of Jonah fictional and unreal

The Queen of the South:

Also, the Lord talked about the Queen of the South who came from the ends of the earth to hear Solomon's wisdom.

Mat 12:42 (NKJV) *"The queen of the south will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here".*

Here, the Lord is talking about the visit of the queen of the South to Solomon and about Solomon's wisdom, and all these things are in the Old Testament.

"For This Reason A Man Will Leave His Father & His Mother"

When teaching about marriage, the Lord emphasised marrying only one woman and no divorce except for adultery He refers to the Old Testament when He says:

Mat 19:3-8 (NKJV) *"The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female"; 5 and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?" 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate 7 they said to Him, "why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so".*

It is clear that all those words are taken from the Old Testament (The Book of Genesis) and it is an invitation to read its books, "have you not read!"

"What Did You Go Out into the Wilderness To See?"

When our Lord praised John the Baptist, the last Prophet of the Old Testament, He referred to the Old Testament.

Mat. 11:7-11 (NKJV) *"As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, Those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 "but what did you go out to see? A prophet? yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 "For this is he of whom it is written: "Behold, I send My*

messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. 11 Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of Women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he”.

In the same reference, the Lord is explaining the prophecy about His own incarnation i.e.. John the Baptist is a forerunner to Him. It is also clear that the “least” is the Lord Christ Himself, as He is younger than John by 6 months.

“Woe to That Man by Whom The Son of Man Is Betrayed”

Mat. 26:23-24 (NKJV) “He answered and said, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”

In Conclusion:

These are only a few examples which show that the Lord of Glory blessed the Old Testament, its books and its prophets. Indeed, He is the Christ of both Testaments. The Holy Spirit is the author of all the books, protecting their writers from making mistakes.

B. The Testimony of the Four Gospels:

The Holy Gospels quoted a lot of the Old Testament verses to assure the complete sequential connection between the two Testaments. The Old Testament was the preparation, which includes the prophecies, while the New Testament is the rejoicing of Salvation through the Saviour in which all the prophecies were fulfilled.

Statistics from The Four Gospels:

St. Matthew’s gospel reported 53 quotations from the Old Testament.

St. Mark’s gospel reported 26 quotations from the Old Testament.

St. Luke’s gospel reported 26 quotations from the Old Testament.

St. John’s gospel reported 20 quotations from the Old Testament.

My beloved reader, I’ll leave you to read these Holy Gospels and record, in a special research, these quotations and they are very clear. These are only examples from one gospel which is St. Matthew’s gospel:

1:1-17	1:22-23	2:5-6	2:15	
2:17-18	2:23	4:2, 7, 10		14:14-16
5:17	5:21	5:27	5:31	
5:33	5:38	5:34	5:38	
5:43	6:29	8:4	8:17	
10:40	11:9, 10	11:14	12:3-6	
12:17-21		12:38-41	12:42	13:17

15:8 16:3-4 17:11-13 18:16
 19:3-9 19:17 21:4&5 21:13
 21:16 21:25 21:42 22:29-32
 22:32-40 22:21-46 22:32-40 22:41-46
 26:31 26:53-54 26:56 26:56
 27:6-10 27:35 27:42 27:46

C. The Testaments of the Epistles:

The Pauline and the other Epistles (catholic) contain many quotations from the Old Testament, assuring the strong connection between the two Testaments. Here are only some examples from one Epistle, namely, St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans:

From The Epistle to the Romans:

1. Rom. 1:1-2 (NKJV) *"Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,*
- 2 Rom. 2:13 (NKJV) *"for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;*
3. Rom. 2:24 (NKJV) *"For "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it written.*
4. Rom. 3:4 (4NKJV) *"Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That you may be justified in your words, And may overcome when You are judged."*
5. Rom. 3:9 (NKJV) *"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are under sin".*
6. Rom. 4:1 (NKJV) *"What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? etc. to verse 25*
7. Rom. 5:12-13 (NKJV) *"Therefore, Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned; 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law....) etc. to verse 21*
8. Rom. 7:1-2 (NKJV) *"Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 for the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband) etc. to verse 6*
9. Rom. 9:4-5 (NKJV) *"Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom, according to the flesh, Christ*

came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen".

10. Rom. 9:13 *As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."*

11. Rom. 9:17 (NKJV) *"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name be declared in all the earth"*

12. Rom. 9:25-33 (NKJV) *"As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, "you are not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God." 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 for He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth 29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah. 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law, For they stumbled at that stumbling stone 33 As it is written: Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame. "*

13. Rom. 10:5 (NKJV) *"For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them".*

14. Rom. 10:11 (NKJV) *"For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame. "*

15. Rom. 10:15-19 (NKJV) *"And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things! " 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says " Lord, who has believed our report? " 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to all the world" 19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation. "*

16. Rom. 10:20-21 (NKJV) *"But Isaiah is very bold and says on behalf of the Lord: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me. " 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people. "*
17. Rom. 11:2-4 (NKJV) *"God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? " I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. "*
18. Rom. 11:8-9 (NKJV) *"Just as it is written: " God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day"9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them"*
19. Rom. 11:26 (NKJV) *"And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*
20. Rom. 11:33-35 (NKJV) *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His Judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? " 35 or who has first given to him And it shall be repaid to him? "*
21. Rom. 12:19 (NKJV) *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written " Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, " says the Lord.*
22. Rom. 13:9 (NKJV) *"For the commandments, " You shall not commit adultery, " "You shall not murder, " "You shall not steal, " " You shall not bear false witness, " " You shall not covet, " and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, " You shall love your neighbor as yourself"*
23. Rom. 14:11 (NKJV) *"For it is written: " As I live, Says the Lord, Every tongue shall confess to God. "*
24. Rom. 15:3-4 V *"For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, " The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on Me. " 4 for whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

25. Rom. 15:8-13 (NKJV) *"Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy, as it is written; "for this reason I will confess to you among the gentiles, and sing to your name. " 10 and again he says : "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people! " 11 and again : "praise the LORD, all you gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! " 12 and again, Isaiah says : "There shall be a root of Jesse; And he who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope. 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

26. Rom. 15:21 (NKJV) *"but as it is written: To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.*

27 Rom 16:25-26 (NKJV) *"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith;*

Isn't it exciting to have so many quotations from the Old testament in just one Epistle!! What about the rest of the Epistles? Especially the Epistles to the Galatians and Hebrews?

St. Paul's Instructions about the Scriptures:

2 Tim. 3:15-17 (NKJV) *"And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Notice how the Books of the Old Testament are divine vehicles, guiding the readers, including Timothy, to faith in Christ and His Salvation.

Notice the words "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. "

I wonder how some people question the holiness of the Old Testament.

Also Instructions from St. Peter:

2 Pet. 1:19-21 (NKJV) *"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is*

of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

By considering and contemplating the previous quotation by St. Peter, we observe that:

- 1: The words of the prophets are stronger than the words of human beings.
- 2: St. Peter states that study and observance of the Old Testaments is a blessing.
- 3: The Scripture is a lantern in the darkness.
- 4: The Old Testament leads to Christ, "The Morning Star".
- 5: All Scriptures, and not only some, are from God.
- 6: The Scripture is written through the Spirit of God, not through man's wisdom.
- 7: The prophets are saints guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 8: Such precise and overwhelming evidence should dispel from our minds all doubts about the Old Testament.

D- The Book Of Revelation Is Another Confirmation Priesthood:

Rev 1:6 (NKJV) "And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Pierced Christ:

Rev. 1:7 (NKJV) "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen".

The Doctrine of Balaam:

Rev 2:14 (NKJV) "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality".

The Tribe of Judah:

Rev. 5:5 (NKJV) "but one of the elders said to me, Do not weep Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seals".

The Remainder Of The Tribes:

Rev. 7 (The tribes mentioned)

The Prophets:

Rev. 10:7 (NKJV) "but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets".

Elijah & Enoch:

Rev 11 (NKJV)

The Jewish Nation:

Rev 12 (NKJV) "the woman mentioned in Rev. 12 is the Jewish nation, it is also a sign of the pure virgin Mary".

The Lamb:

The Lamb standing on Mount Zion is a sign of the Church's victory over the devil (Rev14) also the fall of Babylon (the nation which is a sign of the fights of sin and the victory of God's children over them).

The Song of Moses:

Rev. 15 (NKJV) "then I saw another sign in heaven great and marvelous: seven angles having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God".

The Fall of Babylon:

Is a sign of Old Babylon who tormented the children of God (Rev18:10).

Rev. 18:10 (NKJV) "standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying , Also alas, that great city Bayblyon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come".

The New Jerusalem: Rev.21

The Tree of Life: Rev.22

Now, Who dares separate the two Testaments?

We could point out to hundreds, even thousands of quotations, from the old Testament, mentioned in the New Testament.

There is no doubt that no one dares question the holiness of the Old testament.

Indeed we could say that the Old Testament is an inseparable part of the infallible and eternal Word of God.

Chapter 2



Objections Against the Old Testament

Why then do some people object against the Old Testament?

We will discuss below some of the major objections. Actually, these objections are not new. They are as old as mankind. The heretics cast doubts about the Old Testament imagining that God was too hard in treating people. We can see now what are called "schools for criticising and analysing the Holy Bible" as if the Holy Bible is just any history book, subject to criticism and analysis.

Thank God, these schools (although in opposition) became a means of blessing for Christianity, because through answering their objections, the holiness of the Holy Bible as a whole (both Old and New Testaments) was certified by historical and scientific researches.

A- Some of the Major Objections:

From early times, many enemies of God raised objections against the Old Testament.

The Church has answered all these objections.

The objections against the Old Testament could be summarised as follows:

1. the Angry God, and His favoritism towards Israel.
2. the resemblance between Old Testament stories and some mythology.
3. The apparent disagreement between Science & Religion.
4. The sensual language used in some of the Scriptures.

The Angry God Who Favours Israel

Some people wrongly imagined that God of the Old Testament was dealing harshly with people in general, and with the Gentiles in particular, giving the Jewish people special favour and particular attention.

The Christian Explanation:

Our perception of God has gone through some stages as humanity passed from childhood to maturity. At

the time of the Old Testament humanity was but a child in its knowledge of God.

Apparently, a child would use his senses more than his mind in understanding things. God treated the people in the Old Testament according to their abilities which are sensual and materialistic. He used material measures such as wars, plagues and worldly awards suitable for the child-like spiritual stage.

By the time of the New Testament, humanity has matured and thus it is more appropriate to use more spiritual measures.

In the light of the above concept, we find that God in the Old Testament was as merciful as He is in the New Testament.

The Merciful God of the Old Testament:

This is evident in the Old Testament in the stories of Nineveh, Ahab and the promise of Salvation.

The Judgmental God of the Old Testament, is also loving and merciful.

The God of The New Testament:

The God of the New Testament, is still an awesome and judgmental God, although we have discovered his abundant mercy.

Heb. 10:31 (NKJV) *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God".*

Rom. 2:4-5 (NKJV) *"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God".*

The Special Nation:

On the other hand, the Jews were specially selected and treated in the Old Testament for the sake of general inspiration and for salvation (Romans 15:4)

God wanted to prepare a girl to conceive the saviour, and to give birth to him.

To prepare this special girl, God created the right environment for her. A special nation was then called and prepared through the Law and the Prophets. This nation was purified through wars, punishments and instructions. This nation was also prohibited from idolatry.

John 4:22 (NKJV) *"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews".*

Evidently, children of Israel were blessed by the birth of Lord Jesus from their offspring.

However, this does not mean an automatic and guaranteed salvation, for the sake of their ethnic origin. On the contrary, They are outsiders who are

aliens to Christ, as they rejected and crucified Him and they are waiting for an imaginary Messiah. On the other hand, the gentiles who believed in Christ, received their salvation even though Jesus Christ was not born from their offspring.

The Resemblance Between Some Mythology & The Old Testament:

There is some resemblance between what was written in the Old Testament and some of the writings of old civilisations in Egypt and Babylon. This should never be a cause of alarm, or a reason to reject the Scriptures.

Interaction of Cultures:

Cultures interacted and the Jewish people were living everywhere. So some of these civilisations copied from the Jews, or transmitted some godly knowledge through our common ancestor Noah.

The Spirit of the Lord Works in Many Ways:

The Spirit of God worked in the gentiles through their wise men and philosophy. St. Clement of Alexandria said: "The philosophers are the prophets of the idolaters". This was a preparation for the coming of Christ and the fulfillment of salvation.

The Common Inheritance:

The important historical stories, such as the creation and the flood, are a common heritage of all nations. This is called the oral tradition. The only difference is that the writers of the Old Testament wrote the oral tradition with the guidance of the Holy Spirit who protected them from mistakes, while the writers of the ancient cultures wrote whatever they inherited with some imagination and mistakes.

The Ancient Writings:

There were old manuscripts before the Old Testament. It has been established that there was a library since father Abraham's era written on pieces of wood, leather and other materials.

What we have said concerning the oral tradition applies to this written tradition.

The similarity is there but the Old Testament is infallible and accurate because of the Divine author, the Holy Spirit.

B- Science and Religion:

Some people imagine that some of the books of the Old Testament contradict science, such as the doctrine of creation, and Jonah the prophet.

Some examples showing the truth of the Old Testament incidents are given below, e.g.

The Creation

- 1- The day is an era or a period of time. We are still on the 7th day.
- 2- The succession of creation is correct scientifically: light followed by earth, plants, animals and then man.

Jonah:

As for the story of Jonah the prophet, the Lord Himself assured its truth and the ruins of the city of Ninveh is a strong witness.

Also the discovery of big whales can give us an idea about that special whale which God prepared to save Jonah.

Finally it is a miracle and our God can do everything. Otherwise, how can we believe all the miracles stated in the New Testament.

C- The Sensual Expressions & Language Used in Some Books of The Old Testament:

Some people are not quite comfortable about the sexual expressions used in some books of the Old Testament.

Take as an example, The Song of Songs. This book should not be read with the carnal & the materialistic eye. This book symbolises the relation of God with the Church.

The holiness of the holy matrimony is an example in explaining the unity which takes place between God and the human soul, represented in the One Church.

As for the immoral sins recorded in the Book, they are an indication of the fallen nature of man, which necessitated the incarnation and the Salvation.



Chapter 3



The Purpose and Value of the Old Testament

A- Why Study The Old Testament?

The Old Testament is the basis and the foundation of the Christian belief. The Following reasons are listed to indicate the value of this wonderful spiritual treasure.

Experiential School:

It is a school of experience, in which we observe God's dealing with us.

Means of Spiritual Fulfillment:

It is a source of spiritual satisfaction through the promises of God, and the beautiful prayers found in the Psalms and in the lives of the children of God.

An Invitation to Repentance and Purity:

The Old Testament, as well as the New, declares clearly the judgmental attributes of God, inviting people to repent.

In it we notice the blessings of repentance and God's punishments for disobeying His Commandments.

A Source of Wisdom:

It is a source of Wisdom for in it we read the Proverbs of Solomon, and the wonderful wisdom granted to him by God.

A Spring of Prophecy:

It is a source of prophecies fulfilled in the Old and the New Testaments assuring that God is the author of the Book.

A Wealth of Literature:

It is a wealth of art. In it we find stories, poems, wisdom, law and art etc.

B- The Coptic Orthodox Church & The Old Testament

We as Orthodox Copts are firm believers in the Old Testament as a divinely inspired book.

As a testimony to that, the life of the Church is richly blessed with Old Testament readings.

The Psalms in the Church Office:

Psalms are used in the Prayers of the vespers (morning & night) as well as the liturgy.

The Lectionary during the Lent:

The Church reads complete books of prophecies during Jonah's fast and during the great Lent.

The Lectionary during the Passion Week:
Many extracts from the Old Testament are read during the Passion (Pascha) week.
The Doxologies & Songs Of The Daily Midnight Vigil.
An abundance of quotations from the Old Testament are used in the Vigil.

The Daily Office of Personal Devotions:
The Psalms are used in the book of daily prayers (Agbeya) which is divided into seven prayers to be offered by all Orthodox Copts at appointed hours.

Let us not belittle the Old Testament, because of some attacks which are leveled, not only at it, but also, at the New Testament as well.

Chapter 4



Christ of the Manger is Christ of the Prophecies

Through 300 prophecies the Old Testament mentions all the details concerning Lord Jesus' life on earth. That is why we say that Christ of the manger is Christ of the prophecies. He is the One whom the wisemen were waiting for according to their studies based on the prophecy of Balaam. The Jews also were waiting for Him. They knew the date of His birth, through the Book of Daniel and the place of His birth through the Book of Micah.

Truly, our God is of both Testaments.

Our Christ is the Christ of the whole world.

Following are some prophecies from the Old Testament about our Lord Jesus Christ and their fulfillment in the New Testament. These help us observe the deep connection between the two holy Testaments; the Old and the New.

1- Born of a Woman:

Gen. 3:15 (NKJV) "*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His Heel*"

Gal. 4:4 (NKJV) "*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under the law*".

2- Descendant of Abraham:

Gen. 18:18 (NKJV) "*Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nation of the earth shall be blessed in him*".

Acts 3:25 (NKJV) "*You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed*".

3- Descendant of Isaac:

Gen. 17:19 (NKJV) "*The God said: No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him*".

Mat. 1:2 (NKJV) "*Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers*".

4- The Descendant of Jacob:

Num. 24:17 (NKJV) “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult”.

Luke 3:34 (NKJV) “The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham”. (See also Mat. 1:2)

5- Descendant of the Tribe of Judah:

Gen. 49:10 (NKJV) “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people”.

Luke 3:33 (NKJV) “the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah”.

6- The Heir Of David:

Isa. 9:7 (NKJV) “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His Kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this”.

Mat 1:1 (NKJV) “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham”.

7- The Place of His Birth:

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting”.

Mat. 2:1-6 (NKJV) “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the Jesus? For we have come to worship Him. 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet 6 But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel”.

8- The Date of His Birth:

Dan 9:25 (NKJV) “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty - two

weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times”.

7+ 62= 69 Weeks, one week equals seven years, hence 69 X 7= 453 years (the time span between Daniel & Christ) the seventieth week, is the crucifixion of Christ.

Luke 2:1-2 (NKJV) *“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria”.*

9- His Birth of A Virgin:

Isa. 7:14 (NKJV) *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”.*

Mat. 1:18-23 (NKJV) *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows; After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wating to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly 20 but while he thought about these things, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying Joseph, son of David do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying 23 behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and they shall call His name Immanuel, Which is translated God with us”.*

10- The Children’s Massacre:

Jer. 31:15 (NKJV) *“Thus says the Lord: A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more”.*

11- The Flight to Egypt:

Hosea 11:1 (NKJV) *“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son”.*

Mat 2:14-15 (NKJV) *“When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying “Out of Egypt I Called My Son”.*

12- His Service in Galilee:

Isa. 9:1-2 (NKJV) *“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed*

her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles 2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined”.

Mat. 4:12-16 (NKJV) *“Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying: 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”*

13- The Prophets Gave Signs about Him:

Deu. 18:15 (NKJV) *“the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,*

John 6;14 (NKJV) *“then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, this is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world”.*

14- He Came As A Priest According to the Order Of Melchizedek:

Psa. 110:4 (NKJV) *the Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”.*

Heb 6:20 (NKJV) *“Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

15- Being Rejected by the Jews:

Isa. 53ý:3 (NKJV) *“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem him.*

Psa. 2:2 (NKJV) *“the kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed”.*

John 1:11 (NKJV) *He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.*

16- His Features:

Isa. 11:1-5 (NKJV) *“There shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearings of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the*

wicked 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist”.

Psa. 45:6-8 (NKJV) *“Your throne, O God is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than your companions 8 All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made you glad”.*

Luke 2:52 (NKJV) *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men”.*

Luke 4:18 (NKJV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because he has anointed Me To preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed”.*

17- His Victorious Entry:

Zec. 9:9 (NKJV) *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey”.*

Isa. 62:11 (NKJV) *“Indeed the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world “say to the daughter of Zion Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.”*

John 12:12-16 (NKJV) *“The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The King of Israel! 14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written 15 Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold your king is coming sitting on a donkey’s colt 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him”.*

18- The Treason of His Disciple:

Psa. 41:9 (NKJV) *“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me”.*

Mark 14:10 (NKJV) *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.*

19- He Was Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver:

Zec. 11:12 (NKJV) *“Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not,*

refrain". So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver".

Mat 26:15-16 (NKJV) and said, *"What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?"* And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him".

20- Buying The Potter's Field:

Mat. 27:6-10 (NKJV) *"But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood". 7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in 8 therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me".*

21- Judas' Discipleship Shall Be Given to Another:

Psa. 109:7-9 (NKJV) *"When he is judged, let him be found guilty, And let his prayer become sin 8 Let his days be few, And let another wife a widow".*

Acts 1:16-20 (NKJV) *"Men and brethren, this scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who arrested Jesus 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry 18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out 19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, That is, Field of Blood) 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms "Let his dwelling place be desolate And let no one live in it and Let another take his office."*

22- The False Witness Against the Lord:

Psa. 27:12 (NKJV) *"Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence".*

Psa. 35:11 (NKJV) *"Fierce witnesses rise up; They ask me things that I do not know".*

Mat. 26:60-61 (NKJV) *"but found none, Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days".*

23- His Silence Against Accusation:

Isa. 53:7 (NKJV) "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not his mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth".

Psa. 38:13-14 "But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. 14 Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response". Mat 26:62-63 (NKJV) "And the high priest arose and said to him, "Do you answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God"

Mat 27:12-14 (NKJV) "And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly".

24- They Spat On Him:

Isa. 50:6 (NKJV) "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting".

Mark 14:65 (NKJV) "Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to him, "Prophecy" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands".

25- They Hated Him For No Reason

Psa. 69:4 (NKJV) Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.

Psa. 109:3-5 (NKJV) They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without a cause 4 In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer. 5 Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, And hatred for my love.

John 15:23-25 (NKJV) He who hates Me hates My father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "They hated Me without a cause."

26- He Bore Our Sufferings:

Isa. 53:4-6 (NKJV) "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our

peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”.

Isa. 53:11-12 (NKJV) *“He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By his knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And he was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors”.*

Mat 8:16-17 (NKJV) *“When evening had come, They brought to him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses”.*

Rom. 4:25 (NKJV) *“who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

1Cor. 15:3 (NKJV) *“for I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures”.*

27- Crucified With The Sinners:

Isa. 53:12 (NKJV) *“Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And he shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors”.*

Mat. 27:38 (NKJV) *“Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.”*

Mark. 15:27-28 (NKJV) *“With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors”.*

28- They Pierced His Hands and Feet:

Psa. 22:16 (NKJV) *“For dogs have surrounded me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet”;*

John 20:25-28 (NKJV) *“The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe”. 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; reach your hands here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*

29- They Mocked and Insulted Him:

Psa. 22:6-8 *“But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”*

Mat. 27:39-40 (NKJV) *“And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the son of God, come down from the cross.”*

30- They Gave Him Vinegar and Bitters:

Psa. 69:12 (NKJV) *“Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards”.*

John. 19:29 (NKJV) *“Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth”.*

31- He Heard His People Mocking the Prophecies:

Psa. 22:8 (NKJV) *“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since he delights in Him!”*

Mat. 27:43 (NKJV) *“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if he will have Him; for He said “I am the Son of God.”*

32- He Prayed For His Enemies:

Psa. 109:4 (NKJV) *“In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer”.*

Luk. 23:34 (NKJV) *Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots”.*

33- They Pierced His Side With A Spear:

Zec 12:10 (NKJV) *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn”.*

John 19:34-37 (NKJV) *“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, Not one of His bones shall be broken 37 And again another Scripture says, They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”*

John 20:27 (NKJV) *“Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

34- Dividing His Clothes and Casting Lots on Them:

Psa 22:18 (NKJV) *“They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*

Mark 15:24 (NKJV) “And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take”.

John 19:23 (NKJV) “then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic, Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece”.

35- Not One of His Bones Shall Be Broken:

Psa. 34:20 (NKJV) “He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken”.

Exo. 12:46 (NKJV) “In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones”.

**John 19:33 (NKJV) “Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and the other who was crucified with Him”
But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs ... For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled; “Not one of His bones shall be broken”**

36- To Be Buried with a Rich Person:

Isa. 53:9 (NKJV) “And they made His grave with the wicked; But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth”.

Mat 27:57-60 (NKJV) “Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. 59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed”.

37- His Holy Resurrection

Psa. 16:2 (NKJV) “O my soul, you have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.”

Hosea 6:1-2 (NKJV) “Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but he will heal us; He had stricken, but He will bind us up. 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight”.

Psa. 3:5 (NKJV) “I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me”.

Mat. 28:7 (NKJV) “And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

38- His Blessed Ascension:

Psa 68:18 (NKJV) “*You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the Lord God might dwell there*”.

The lord freed all good souls who were in captivity under the control of the devil in Hades. He opened paradise for them.

Luke 24:50-52 (NKJV) “*And he led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven 52 And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy*”

Acts 1:9 “*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight*”.

Final Commentary

If you meditate on all these prophecies about the Eternal annointment of the Lord Christ, His Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension, you will discover the holiness of the Old testament and the importance of connecting both Testaments. For our Christ, is the Christ of the both Testaments and no doubt Christ of the manger is Christ of the Prophecies.

Prov 8:23 (NKJV) “*I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth*”.

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) “*But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The one to be Ruler in Israel, From everlasting.*”