

Reading Scripture with the Church ~ Typology



The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfils the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God. (CCC140)

Augustine tells us that “the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed; the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed” *Novum Testamentum in Vetere latet, Vetus in Novo patet* (Quaestiones in Heptateuchum 2, 73). This adage expresses the inseparable connection the Old and New Testament have in revealing God’s plan of salvation.

Reading Scripture as the revelation of God’s Plan

“These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our ancestors he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children.” (Acts 13:30) “In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.” (Ephesians 1:9)

God has been working throughout history to bring His people the saving power of His love (Psalm 98). The revelation has been gradual and the events of the Old Testament prefigure Christ who has fulfilled them. The Church “constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology, which discerns in God's works of the Old Covenant prefigurations of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person of his incarnate Son” (CCC 128).

When reading scripture we should see how God’s plan of salvation unfolds in History (cf CCC 112, 128-130)

Encountering Christ through the Word

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

The primary intention of all scripture is to communicate God’s love and will to us (2 Tim 3:16). This intention is perfected in Christ who is the Word made Flesh (John 1:14). When we read scripture we are encountering Christ in a deep and profound way (PD 3). “All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and that one book is Christ, because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ” (Hugh of St. Victor, De arca Noe 2, 8: PL 176, 642).

When reading Scripture seek to grow in your relationship with Christ who is the source of all Scripture (CCC 134).

