The Savior – The Person of Jesus Christ
The Promised Messiah

A Biblical View of the Savior and His Work

When we consider the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we understand who He is and what He has accomplished through the lens of the Bible, Holy Scripture. Obviously this is because the Bible is the Word of God, given to man to reveal God and communicate the Divine thoughts and intentions of God to mankind and for mankind. Further, the Bible is the most complete accounting of Christ's person and His work. It not only presents accurate historical narratives of Christ's life and teachings, but communicates to us the living and powerful Words of God to us, which are transforming both to our personal life and to our cultures and societies.

> **Hebrews 4:12-13** - 12 For the **word of God is living and active** and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. NASB

Beyond this, it is helpful to understand that **the Bible is a unified whole**. Its 66 books written by 40 authors present to us a complete narrative which outlines human history from the creation of mankind to the destruction of the present heavens and earth and subsequent restoration of the same by God, culminating in the eternal Kingdom of God in the New Heavens and Earth, which God will create. This **unified whole** we refer to as **"REDEMPTIVE HISTORY."** That is, the History of Redemption, which is the primary purpose of God in the creation of the world and mankind. Since this Redemption is the main theme of the narrative of the Bible, we find the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and His person, who is the Savior of the world, to be the focal point of all of human history.

> **John 4:42** - 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that **this One is indeed the Savior of the world.**" NASB

Jesus Christ is the focus of the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Therefore, if we seek to learn about the person and work of Christ, it must come from the special revelation of God in the Bible, given to us to explain and reveal Christ Himself.

The Plan of Redemption

When we consider the narrative of the Old and New Testaments, it is important to see the **PROVIDENCE** of Almighty God in the outworking of His eternal plans in human history. All of the events of history are the outworking of plans which God has made from all eternity. In fact, Providence is assumed and implied constantly by biblical writers, as we shall see.

> **Hebrews 1:2-3** - 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world**. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power**. NASB
> **Colossians 1:16-17** - 16 For by Him all things were created, **both in the heavens and on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- **all things have been created by Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together**. NAS
> **Acts 17:28** - 28 **for in Him we live and move and exist**, NASB
> **Job 34:14-15** - 14 "If He should determine to do so**, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust**. NASB

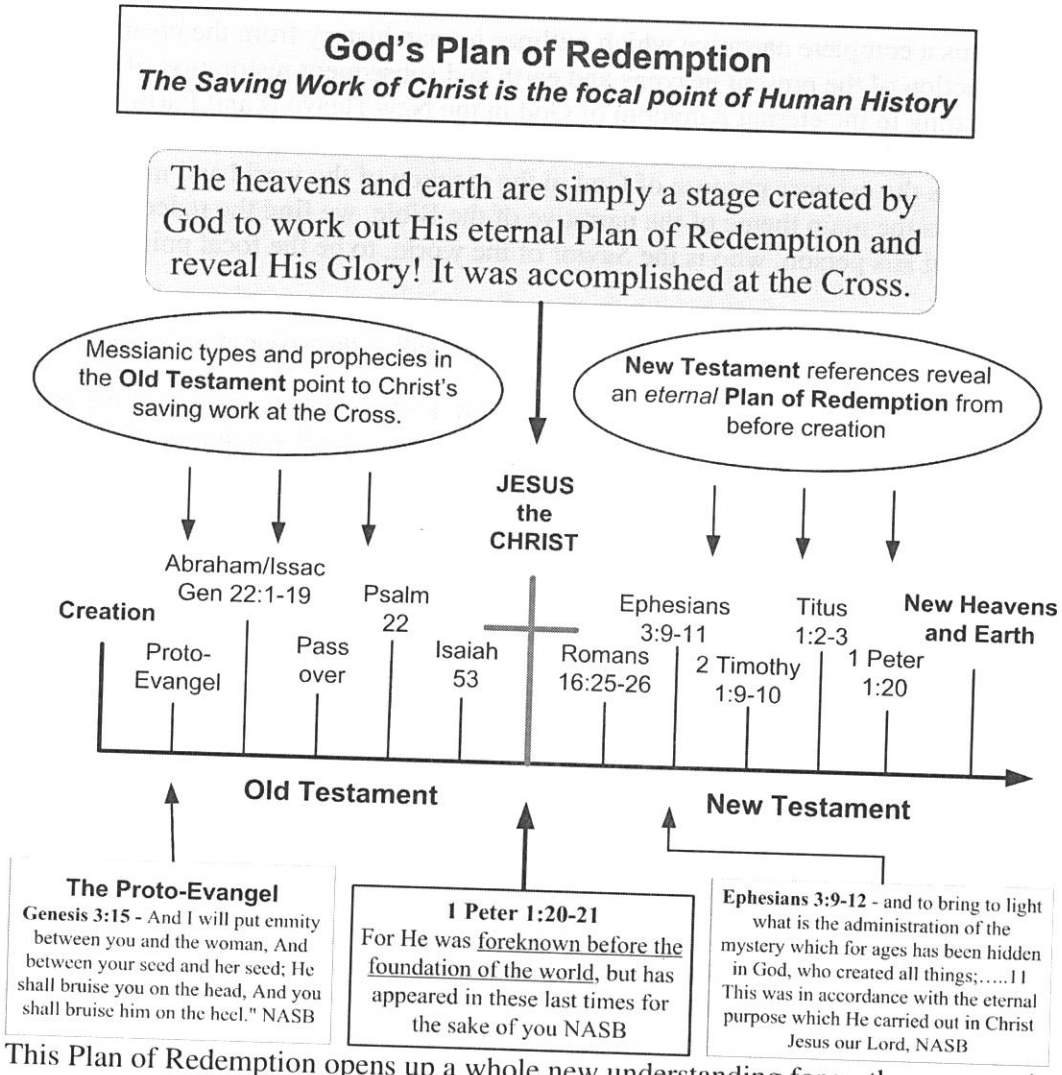
Therefore, when we think about God's activity of Providence in His world, we should think of it as **God working out the plans that He has made** for His creation from all eternity. Not only does God control Nature, but because of this is "in every action directing" the events of History. The Scripture plainly declares that God is the primary cause behind everything that happens.

Lamentations 3:37-38 - 37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, **Unless the Lord has commanded it?** 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth? **NASB**
Isaiah 45:7 - 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, **Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these**. NASB

Now the fact that events are seen to be under the Providence of God is plainly evident in Scripture. God is Providentially working His will in all things to accomplish His own purposes for the display of His own Glory, Name and Power!

Ephesians 1:9-11 - 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a **view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth**. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, NASB

Consider then, that in the course of history, God's purpose to redeem fallen mankind from their sin by sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world to give His life as a sacrifice and be raised from the dead, is primary among all the things which God has purposed to do. God is summing up all things in Christ! In fact this is plainly revealed in Scripture as the unified message of **REDEMPTIVE HISTORY**.



This Plan of Redemption opens up a whole new understanding for us then concerning God's activity in directing the events of History. We see then and therefore that Jesus Christ and His

atoning work at the Cross become the very focal point of history, and thus the key event in the history of the world. Another way of stating this is that all things before the cross look forward to the Cross and all things after the Cross look back at the Cross. The Cross of Jesus Christ is everything! More than this, the God-Man Christ Jesus, the One hanging on the Cross is the eternal Lord of history, come to earth to display the awesome beauty of His divine character to us in an unfathomable way as to cause the whole creation to stand in awe, rejoicing with Holy fear, at the marvelous thing that He has done!

> **Revelation 5:11-14** - 11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, **"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." 13 And <u>every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them</u>, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."** 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped. NASB

So when we think about Jesus Christ the Savior, we must understand that He is not just some Galilean peasant in history who did some good things and had some wise teachings, but rather He is God very God, embodied as a man, accomplishing the primary work of the eternal plans of God which were made before the creation of the world.

> **1 Peter 1:18-20** – 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,** but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you NASB

Christ the Messiah Promised in the Old Testament

As we go through the narrative of the Old Testament, we see this **REDEMPTIVE HISTORY** showing up in many places. It is in fact a record of how God has worked out the Plan Redemption down through the ages of history, tracing the genealogy of the Savior all the way from Adam to Christ. **(See Genesis 5, 1 Chronicles 1-9, Matthew 1:1-16).** The Old Testament is filled with ***"types", "shadows"*** and specific ***"Messianic Prophecies"*** of the Christ the Messiah. We see "types" (**<u>typical prophecies</u>**) or "shadows" of the Messiah in different stories of the Old Testament which reveal different aspects of the Gospel or the coming Messiah's ministry. There are also many specific ***"Messianic Prophecies"*** of the Christ and His ministry in the Old Testament. According to the Old Testament, the coming Messiah would:

- Be a descendant of Abraham (compare Gen. 22:18 with Gal. 3:16)
- Be a descendant of Jacob (compare Num. 24:17 with Lk. 3:23, 34)
- Be from the tribe of Judah (compare Gen. 49:10 with Lk. 3:23, 33)
- Be from the family of Jesse (compare Is. 11:1 with Lk. 3:23, 32)
- Be from the house of David (compare Jer. 23:5 with Lk. 3:23, 31)
- Be born at Bethlehem (compare Micah 5:2 with Matt. 2:1)
- Be the pre-existent one (compare Micah 5:2 with Col. 1:17)
- Be the Lord (compare Psalm 110:1 with Matt. 22:43-45)
- Be God with us (compare Isaiah 7:14 with Matt. 1:23)
- Be a prophet (compare Deut. 18:18 with Matt. 21:11)
- Be a priest (compare Psalm 110:4 with Heb. 3:1; 5-6)
- Be a king (compare Psalm 2:6 with Matt. 27:37)
- Be anointed by the Spirit (compare Is. 11:2 with Matt. 3:16, 17)
- Be zealous for God (compare Ps. 69:9 with John 2:15, 16)
- Have a forerunner (compare Is. 40:3; Mal. 3:1 with Matt. 3:1,2)

- Begin His ministry in Galilee (compare Is. 9:1 with Matt. 4:12-17)
- Have a ministry of miracles (compare Is. 35:5,6 with Matt. 9:35)
- Bring healing and spiritual life (compare Is. 61:1-2 with Lk. 4:18).
- Enter Jerusalem on a donkey (compare Zech. 9:9 with Lk. 19:35-37)
- Be rejected by the Jews (compare Psalm 118:22 with 1 Pet. 2:7)
- Be silent before His accusers (compare Is. 53:7 with Matt. 27:12)
- Be wounded and bruised (compare Is. 53:5 with Matt. 27:26)
- Be smitten and spit upon (compare Is. 50:6 with Matt. 26:67)
- Be crucified with thieves (compare Is. 53:12 with Matt. 27:38)
- Have His garments divided (compare Ps. 22:18 with John 19:23,24)
- Have his side pierced (compare Zech. 12:10 with John 19:34)
- Be buried in a rich man's tomb (compare Is. 53:9 with Matt. 27:57ff)
- Come before Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed (compare Dan. 9:26 with Matt. 24:2)

Even Jesus Himself spoke of the fact that the Old Testament Scriptures bore witness to His coming.

> **John 5:39** - 39 "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is these that bear witness of Me**; NASB

Luke also describes how Jesus taught the disciples on the road to Emmaus from the Old Testament, including Moses and the Prophets, the ***"things concerning Himself."***

> **Luke 24:27** – 27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He **explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures**. NASB

The New Testament speaks in many places about the fact that the Old Testament pointed to Christ as the coming Redeemer and Savior.

> **Acts 4:10-12** - 10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health. 11 **"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS,** *but* **WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER** *stone*. **12 "And there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." NASB
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> **1 Corinthians 10:1- 4** - For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and **all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea**; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and **the rock was Christ**. NASB
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> **Hebrews 5:5-6** – 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, **"THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE"**; 6 just as He says also in another *passage*, **"THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."** NASB

So when we consider the storyline of the Old Testament, it is important that we see it as a **unified whole**, woven together with the New Testament and fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ. He is the Old Testament Messiah who was promised by God to redeem His people and save them from death and suffering and usher in a Kingdom which shall never be shaken.

The Proto-Evangel

Throughout the Old Testament record, beginning at the fall of man in Genesis chapter 3, the promise of a coming Redeemer is woven into the biblical text. As soon as sin enters into the storyline, redemption becomes necessary as mankind is tragically separated from God by his sin and in a hopeless and desperate state. This was the fearful warning from God about eating from the tree….

> **Genesis 2:16-17** - 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 **but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die**." NASB