

# Abounding Grace Christian Church

## Seeing Christ in the Old Testament: A Study of the Types of Christ – Part 18

### I. Seeing Christ in the Books of Joshua and Ruth.

#### A. Joshua as a Type of Christ.

1. As an Introduction to this, A.M. Hodgkin writes”

**“Moses was the embodiment of the Law. The Law cannot bring us into the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. That Jesus Christ alone can do, and through this book Joshua is a type of Him. The very name has the same meaning. Joshua means ‘Jehovah is Salvation.’ ‘And thou shalt call His name Jesus - Saviour; for He shall save His people from their sins.’<sup>1</sup>**

2. Both Joshua and Jesus are Commanders and Leaders of their People who conquered the Enemy – **Joshua 6:1-21; Joshua 21:43-45; Luke 11:17-22; Colossians 2:15; I John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15.**

3. Joshua led the children of Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan – **Joshua 1:2-9; 21:43-45.** Jesus has also brought those who believe and follow Him into their Promised Land. **Romans 8:16-17; II Corinthians 1:20; Ephesians 1:3-14; Hebrews 3:7-19; 4:1-10.** Donald C. Stamps writes:

**“The promised land and its conquest by God’s people does not symbolize heaven; rather, it represents the spiritual ‘inheritance’ that followers of Christ receive by accepting His salvation. This includes forgiveness of sins and the opportunity to have a personal relationship with God, along with all of His blessings and benefits.”<sup>2</sup>**

4. Donald Stamps brings out several other great points when he writes,

**“For Joshua and the Israelites, conquering and possessing the promised land would be possible only through faith in God, obedience to His Word and battling against God’s enemies. It is the same for NT believers. Under the new covenant (i.e. God’s plan of spiritual salvation and a personal relationship with Him through the work of his Son, Jesus Christ), receiving salvation and God’s blessings are also a result of living by faith in Christ, obedience to His Word and engaging in the spiritual battle against our rebellious human nature as well as Satan’s evil schemes. Just as Joshua warned the people that they could lose their place in the promised land by turning away from their faith in God (Joshua 23:16), believers today must be careful to keep relying on God’s promises, power and personal presence.”<sup>3</sup>**

5. A.M. Hodgkin writes about this in a powerful way:

**“Surely this is a picture of our present inheritance in Christ Jesus; it is He who can give such rest to our souls that we are able to say, ‘We which have believed do enter into rest.’ He who did not spare His own Son has promised with Him to ‘freely give us all things.’ Christ has promised to give the Living Water, the Holy Spirit, to those who come to Him and drink. And He has promised continual victory to those who commit themselves to His leadership. A victorious life, full of the Holy Ghost and of power, is God’s purpose for every Christian, and is experienced through continual abiding in Christ. He promises us - not absence of tribulation, but in Him peace; not freedom from temptation and conflict, but through Him victory; not immunity from toil, but in Him rest. “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it” (Heb. 4:1).”<sup>4</sup>**

#### B. Seeing Christ in the Book of Ruth.

1. The book of Ruth is a short story divided into only four chapters. It’s the true story of a Hebrew man named Elimelech who, because of a famine, leaves Judah with his wife, Naomi and their two sons. They end up in the land of Moab which was a territory on the other side of the Dead Sea from Judah. As time passed, Elimelech died leaving Naomi as a widow. Afterward, her two sons ended up marrying two Moabite women, one by the name of Orpah and the other one

<sup>1</sup> A.M. Hodgkin, *Christ in all the Scriptures*, (Westwood, NJ: Barbour Books, 1989), 43.

<sup>2</sup> *Fire Bible: English Standard Version*, Donald C. Stamps, Gen. Ed. (Springfield, MO: Life Publishers Int’l, 2011), 316.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> A.M. Hodgkin, *Christ in all the Scriptures*, 44.

named Ruth. Eventually, both of Naomi's two sons died as well leaving their two wives as widows. Soon thereafter, Naomi hears that there is no longer a famine in Judah and plans to return. She gives her two daughters-in-laws permission to return to their own families but the Scripture states that Orpah left but Ruth was determined to stay with her mother-in-law (**Ruth 1:16-17**).

2. **A Man named Boaz** – As Naomi and Ruth come to Bethlehem, Ruth goes out to work in the barley fields to help reap the harvest. She ends up in a field owned by a man named Boaz. Boaz is a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech.

a. The Law of "**Kinsman-Redeemer**" – Andrew Hill and John Walton describe this the following way:

**"Under this law, if a man died without having a son, his brother was obligated to bear a son by his widow. That son would thereafter be considered the heir to the dead brother's household. In this way families could not easily die out."**<sup>5</sup>

b. Boaz becomes a type of Christ and Ruth becomes a type of the believer. Donald Stamps writes:

**"Boaz became a redeemer in two ways. (1) He married Ruth and continued the family line of Elimelech (Naomi's deceased husband). The firstborn son of Boaz and Ruth was considered a son in Elimelech's family line. (2) Boaz redeemed (i.e., bought back, saved) the family land that Naomi had sold and restored it to Elimelech's family. Boaz is an OT type-a prophetic symbol- of Jesus Christ. The NT presents Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer in the following ways: (1) Christ has purchased our lives by His own blood and rescues our lives from being lost to sin (John 3:16; I Pet. 1:18-19). (2) Christ's merciful actions made it possible for us to be part of God's family and to receive an eternal inheritance in the new heaven and new earth (Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7)."**<sup>6</sup>

c. It's important to note that Ruth, a non-Jew, became the great grandmother of King David and, therefore, was an ancestor of the Lord Jesus. (**See Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5-6; Luke 3:31-32**).

d. Kevin J. Conner offers the following additional insights concerning Jesus our Kinsman-Redeemer:

**"The Israelites experienced the laws of redemption as seen in the function of the Kinsman Redeemer. This involved the redemption of a wife, a slave, or forfeited land inheritance (Leviticus 25; Jeremiah 32:6–15; Ruth 4). The Kinsman Redeemer had to have three qualifications in order to fulfil this function.**

- (a) He must be a near kinsman, a relative.
- (b) He must be willing to redeem the lost inheritance, or to buy back the relative.
- (c) He must be able to pay the full price of redemption.

**All of these laws of redemption shadowed forth, the Lord Jesus Christ as our Kinsman Redeemer, fulfilling the laws of redemption as set out by the Lord God.**

- (a) Christ became our near Kinsman Redeemer by the incarnation and virgin birth (Hebrews 10:5–8).
- (b) Christ was willing to redeem the human race and the inheritance forfeited through sin (Hebrews 10:5–10; Psalm 40:7–8).
- (c) Christ was also able to pay the full redemptive price (Revelation 5:9; 14:3–4; Galatians 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18–20; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Romans 3:24–25).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), 252.

<sup>6</sup> *Fire Bible: English Standard Version*, Donald C. Stamps, Gen. Ed., 394.

<sup>7</sup> Kevin J. Conner, *Foundations of Christian Doctrine* (Conner Ministries, 2022), 237.