

HOW TO READ

See Jesus in the Word Like Never Before

THE BIBLE

JOSEPH PRINCE

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Part 2:

KEYS TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

THE NEW IS IN THE OLD CONCEALED, THE OLD IS IN THE NEW REVEALED

My friend, God hides His best secrets and treasures for those who are hungry and diligent in seeking them out.

I believe that the fact you are reading this right now is a testament to your hunger and desire to know Him more. And I want you to know that your Father God in heaven sees that, and He will surely answer and reveal more of Himself to you.

You see, it is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search it out (Prov. 25:2). **God intentionally hides precious truths beneath the surface, not to keep them from us**

but for us, because He knows the thrill and joy we experience when we discover them for ourselves. It's like a treasure hunt—the excitement you feel when you finally find what you've been seeking is so rewarding.

So, while God graciously puts many encouraging truths in plain sight for all to receive, He reserves the deeper secrets and richest revelations for those who press in to know Him more.

Those who approach His Word with a hungry, teachable, and diligent heart are the ones to whom He opens up the mysteries of the kingdom.

The Bible is a very rich book. It has sixty-six books spanning two testaments, penned by about forty different individuals, over a period of nearly 1,500 years, yet with one divine authorship—the Holy Spirit of God! Second Timothy 3:16 tells us, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,” meaning that every single word is recorded precisely as God intended. It is the Word of God! In it are stories, songs, poetry, prophecies, and letters, and it takes some skill to read, understand, and interpret them, especially in the light of the new covenant.

“Those who approach His Word with a hungry, teachable, and diligent heart are the ones to whom He opens up the mysteries of the kingdom.”

That is why, over the next few chapters, I will give you some keys or principles to help you better read and understand the Bible.

The first one I will discuss in this chapter is this: **the New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed.**

In other words, **the Old Testament contains shadows, types, and prophecies that point to Jesus Christ and the new covenant, while the New Testament unveils and fulfills these hidden truths.**

This principle is beautifully demonstrated by our Lord Himself with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to them and began to expound the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets. He showed them how the Old Testament scriptures pointed to Him and His redemptive work.

You may be wondering, *But Pastor Prince, the name “Jesus” was never mentioned in the Old Testament. How can we see Him in those scriptures?*

When I say “see Jesus in the Word,” I don’t mean seeing Him in the flesh or just reading about Him in the New Testament as you would a novel. Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians,

made a remarkable statement about the relevance of the Old Testament for us as new covenant believers. He said, “Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11).

The word “examples” is translated from *typos* in the original Greek text.⁴ *Typos* is where we get the English word *type*.⁵ In other words, the events, characters, and circumstances we see in the Old Testament serve as types and shadows that point to and find their ultimate fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul further ratified this principle of interpreting Scripture with an example in Galatians 4:22–31, where he talked about how Abraham’s two wives, Hagar and Sarah, and their sons, Ishmael and Isaac, actually represent the two covenants—the old covenant of law and the new covenant of grace.

Hagar, the bondwoman, represents the old covenant given at Mount Sinai, which brings bondage and condemnation. Her son, Ishmael, was born according to the flesh, and is a picture of those under the law who strive to achieve righteousness by their own efforts. In contrast, Sarah, the freewoman, represents the new covenant of grace, which brings freedom and justification. Her son, Isaac, was born through the promise

of God, just as we are born again and made righteous by faith through Christ.

In contrast to the Old Testament, the New Testament is a glorious unveiling of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to reveal the Father's love to us in the most tangible and personal way.

In the Gospels, we see Jesus walking among men, healing the sick, raising the dead, and speaking words of life and grace. He is the very expression of God's heart toward us. As the apostle John wrote, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). **In Jesus, the perfect representation of our heavenly Father's character and nature, we see the invisible God made visible.**

But our journey doesn't end with the Gospels. Remember what Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room before His crucifixion? He told them, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:12-13). Jesus was alluding to the fact that there was more revelation to come, which would be given after His ascension and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Now who did God raise up to write most of the books of the New Testament? It was Paul. Paul himself makes it clear that his words are not his own but are directly from the Lord. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, he writes, “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

So in the epistles, we encounter the words of the risen and glorified Christ through Paul and the other apostles. Here, we dive deeper into the incredible inheritance we have received as saints through Christ’s finished work on the cross. Paul, in particular, expounds on the riches of God’s grace and the blessings we have in Christ. He declares that we are “blessed . . . with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” and seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3, 2:6). These truths unveil our identity as God’s beloved children and the authority we have in Christ. They are the words of the risen, glorified Christ seated at the Father’s right hand.

That’s why I always encourage believers to spend time in Paul’s letters. They contain the fullness of the revelation of the gospel of grace, the mystery of the church, the power of the Holy Spirit, and so many other vital truths for our lives today.

When you put both the Old and New Testaments together,

you begin to see how they work together to show us a full and complete picture **of God's redemptive plan through Jesus and His Father's heart toward us.** The Old Testament is full of hidden treasures and secrets about Jesus that are waiting to be unlocked. It's like a treasure map, with clues and symbols pointing to the ultimate treasure—Christ Himself! The New Testament is the key that helps us unlock these secrets. It reveals Jesus plainly and shows us how He is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises, prophecies, and patterns. The New gives us clarity about Christ, while the Old gives us depth and richness in our knowledge of Christ.

That's why we need to read both the Old and New Testaments.

So, when you read the Old Testament, look for Jesus. Look for types and shadows that point to Christ and His finished work.

For example, the Passover lamb in Exodus is a picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The high priest who entered the Holy of Holies once a year with the blood of an animal is a shadow of Christ, who entered the true Holy of Holies in heaven with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption for us (Heb. 9:11-12).

When you read the New Testament, see how it unveils and fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

See how Jesus is the Yes and Amen to all of God's promises

(2 Cor. 1:20). See how the new covenant of grace is far superior to the old covenant of law (Heb. 8:6-13).

Beloved, as you read the Bible with these principles in mind, you will begin to see the beautiful tapestry of God's redemptive plan woven through every page of Scripture. You will see how the Bible is not just a collection of random stories but a cohesive narrative that reveals the heart of a loving God who desires to have a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ. And as you behold Jesus in the Word, you will be transformed from glory to glory into His image (2 Cor. 3:18).

Thought 1

The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed.



How to Study the Old and New Testaments

Scan the QR code to watch now

1. When we read the Old Testament, what should we be looking out for?

2. When we read the New Testament, what should we be looking out for?

3. How can studying both the New and the Old Testaments help us understand the Bible better?

4. What new covenant truth does the bronze serpent in Numbers 21 point to? What are some other details from this story that can help us better understand what Jesus did for us on the cross?

Meditate on this:

- The New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed. The Old Testament contains types and shadows that point to our Lord Jesus and His finished work at the cross. The New Testament unveils these hidden truths, revealing to us how the Lord is the fulfillment and substance of these shadows.
- When we study the Old Testament, we find many more details about the truths revealed in the New Testament.
- When we read both the Old and New Testaments in our study of the Bible, we will gain a fuller, richer picture of God's heart and the redemptive work of Jesus for us.
- For example, in the New Testament, we see Jesus making reference to the bronze serpent that Moses held up (John 3:14-15) and saying that He Himself would likewise be lifted up on the cross. If we then read about the bronze serpent in Numbers 21, we can learn so much more about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, such as how He has also borne away our sicknesses and pains. Studying both the Old and New Testaments will allow God to reveal to us the finer details about our Lord, what He has done for us, and how we are to appropriate these truths today.

Thought 2

God uses typology to reveal the richness of new covenant truths.



Hagar and Sarah—a Picture of Two Covenants

Scan the QR code to watch now

1. Based on the excerpt, how are Hagar and Sarah symbolic of the two covenants in the Bible? And what do Ishmael and Isaac represent?

Types

What They Represent

Hagar:

Sarah:

Types

What They Represent

Ishmael:

Isaac:

2. What new covenant truth is Apostle Paul trying to help us understand through the typology in Galatians 4? How does it speak to you today?

Meditate on this:

- The Bible often uses typology to illustrate new covenant truths. For example, in Galatians 4, the apostle Paul uses the story of Sarah and Hagar to illustrate his teaching about how the old covenant of law and the new covenant of grace should not be mixed together in a believer's doctrine today.
- Sarah represents grace, while Hagar represents the law. Ishmael is a picture of how the law produces bondage, and Isaac is a picture of how grace brings about God's promises in our lives.
- In Galatians 4:30, Paul affirms Sarah's demand to cast out the bondwoman and her son, because, as the scripture goes on to say, "The son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." This means that when we hold on to a mixture of the two covenants in our believing, we will not receive the fullness of our inheritance in Christ, which comes to us freely by grace alone.