

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Christmas (Advent 2)**

**The Old Testament is Fulfilled in Christ**

Deut. 18.13-19

Psalms 119.97-100, 102-103

Acts 3.18-26

Luke 24.44-48

**Key Verse :** *"Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'" - Luke 24:44*

The Advent season is a time of preparation and anticipation, not just for the celebration of Christ's birth but for understanding the profound fulfilment of God's promises in Him. Jesus Christ is the bridge between the Old and the New Testament. He is the culmination of the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, as He Himself declared after His resurrection (Luke 24:44). Today, we reflect on the theme: *"The Old Testament is fulfilled in Christ"*, exploring how the Scriptures point to Him as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. The passages before us - Deuteronomy 18:13-19, Psalm 119:97-100, 102-103, Acts 3:18-26, and Luke 24:44-48 - provide a roadmap to understanding how Christ fulfils the Old Testament. As we examine these texts, we will draw four lessons on the fulfilment of the Old Testament in Christ and its relevance for us today.

**1. Christ Fulfils the Prophecies of the Old Testament - Deuteronomy 18:13-19**

In Deuteronomy, Moses prophesied about a coming prophet who would be like him, a mediator between God and His people. Moses declared: *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet"* (Deut. 18:15). This prophecy finds its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ. Like Moses, Jesus came to mediate between God and humanity, but unlike Moses, He provided a perfect and eternal mediation through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Imagine receiving a long-awaited letter. For centuries, the Israelites anticipated this "Prophet" as a message from God. Jesus is that final and perfect "letter," completing the story God began in the Old Testament. Just as the Israelites were called to listen to this Prophet, we too are called to heed Jesus' teachings and follow Him. In a season of Advent, we prepare our hearts by re-centring our lives on the One who perfectly fulfils God's promises.

**2. Christ is the Embodiment of the Law and Wisdom - Psalm 119:97-100, 102-103**

Psalm 119 celebrates the beauty and power of God's Word. The psalmist exclaims: *"Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long"* (v. 97). While the Old Testament Law provided wisdom and guidance, it was never an end in itself. The Law pointed to the need for a Savior who could fulfil its demands perfectly. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). He embodied the wisdom and righteousness of God, showing us how to live in

perfect obedience and love. Think of the Law as a road sign pointing us toward our destination. While the sign is important, the goal is to reach the destination - Jesus Christ, who fulfils and transcends the Law. As followers of Christ, we are no longer bound by the ceremonial aspects of the Law but are called to live out its deeper principles of love, justice, and mercy. This Advent season, let the sweetness of Christ's wisdom be as honey to your soul, as the psalmist describes.

### **3. Christ Fulfils the Promises of Redemption - Acts 3:18-26**

In Acts 3, Peter speaks to the crowd after healing a lame man, declaring that Jesus fulfilled what God had foretold through the prophets. Peter states: *"In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer"* (Acts 3:18). The promise of redemption, echoed in the Old Testament, is fulfilled in Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. Through Christ, the covenantal promises given to Abraham, David, and the prophets come to fruition. He is the blessing for all nations, restoring humanity's broken relationship with God. Picture a seed planted in the soil of the Old Testament. Over time, it grows and blossoms into a magnificent tree. Jesus is the full bloom of God's redemptive work. As we celebrate Advent, let us remember that the gift of redemption comes with a call to repentance and restoration. Peter urges his audience to "turn to God," reminding us to renew our relationship with Him during this season.

### **4. Christ is the Fulfilment of the Scriptures and the Light for the Nations - Luke 24:44-48**

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and explained: *"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled"* (Luke 24:44). Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, revealing that His life, death, and resurrection were the climax of God's salvation story. He also commissioned them to be His witnesses, proclaiming repentance and forgiveness to all nations. Imagine reading the first half of a novel and then finally discovering how all the threads come together in the last chapters. Jesus is the final chapter that ties together every theme and prophecy of the Old Testament. As Advent points us to Christmas, it also reminds us of our mission. Just as the disciples were called to share the good news of Jesus, we too are witnesses to the fulfilment of God's promises in Christ. Let us share this light with those in darkness.

### **Conclusion**

The Old Testament is not a standalone book; it is the foundation of the Gospel story, fulfilled in Christ. From the prophecies of Moses to the wisdom of the Psalms, from the promises of redemption to the universal call of the Gospel, Jesus completes what was begun. This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate His birth, let us also marvel at how He fulfils every word of Scripture. As we reflect on these truths, let us remember that Christ's fulfilment of the Old Testament is not just a historical fact but a living reality that transforms our lives today. In Christ, we find hope, wisdom, redemption, and purpose.

## **Prayer**

Gracious and Almighty God, We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the fulfilment of all Your promises and the culmination of Your Word. Open our hearts and minds to understand the Scriptures, just as You did for the disciples. Help us to see Christ in every part of Your story and to live in the light of His wisdom and grace. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, may we also prepare our hearts to be His witnesses, sharing the hope, peace, joy, and love that come from knowing Him. Strengthen our faith, renew our spirits, and guide us in Your truth so that we may live lives worthy of Your calling. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.