

CRS401

THE UNITY OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS (HEILSGESCHICHTE).



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COURSE TITLE: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte).

COURSE CODE: CRS 403:

COURSE UNITS: 3

Series 1: The Unity of the Christian Bible

Part 1.1: Concept of the Christian Bible

1.1.1 Definition and scope of the Christian Bible

1.1.2 Structure of the Old and New Testaments

Part 1.2: Understanding Unity in the Christian Bible

1.2.1 Meaning of unity in biblical context

1.2.2 Theological foundations of unity

Part 1.3: Themes Linking the Old and New Testaments

1.3.1 Common theological themes (e.g., covenant, salvation, promise–fulfillment)

1.3.2 Examples of thematic continuity in selected texts

Part 1.4: Implications of Unity for Christian Faith

1.4.1 Unity as a basis for doctrine and teaching

1.4.2 Relevance of unity for contemporary Christian practice

INTRODUCTION



The Christian Bible is central to the faith and practice of millions of believers across the world. Yet, many readers often approach the Old and New Testaments as if they were separate books with distinct purposes. This Series invites you to see the Bible as a unified whole, where the two Testaments complement and illuminate each other. By exploring this unity, you will gain a deeper appreciation of how the Bible presents a consistent message of salvation and how this message continues to shape Christian thought and life today.

This Series aim to introduce you to the concept of unity within the Christian Bible and to equip you with the ability to identify, explain, and evaluate how the Old and New Testaments are connected in content, themes, and purpose.

We shall commence this Series by examining the concept of the Christian Bible, including its definition and structure. Next, we will move on to explore the meaning of unity in a biblical context and the theological foundations that support it. Following that, we will consider the themes that link the Old and New Testaments, such as covenant, salvation, and promise–fulfillment, with examples drawn from selected texts. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing the implications of this unity for Christian doctrine and practice, highlighting its relevance for contemporary faith.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 1.1: define the Christian Bible and explain its scope,
- SLO 1.2: Describe the structure of the Old and New Testaments.
- SLO 1.3 explain the meaning of unity in a biblical context,
- SLO 1.4 analyze the theological foundations that support the unity of the Christian Bible.
- SLO 1.5 identify common theological themes linking the Old and New Testaments,
- SLO 1.6: illustrate examples of thematic continuity using selected biblical texts,
- SLO 1.7 evaluate the implications of unity for Christian doctrine, and
- SLO 1.8 appraise the relevance of biblical unity for contemporary Christian practice.

1.1 Concept of The Christian Bible

1.1.1 Definition and scope of the Christian Bible

The Christian Bible is defined as the sacred text of Christianity, comprising the Old Testament and the New Testament. It is regarded by Christians as divinely inspired and authoritative for faith and practice. The Old Testament contains writings that predate the life of Jesus Christ, including laws, history, poetry, and prophecy. The New Testament focuses on the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as the growth of the early church. Together, these two Testaments form a unified whole that guides Christian belief and conduct.



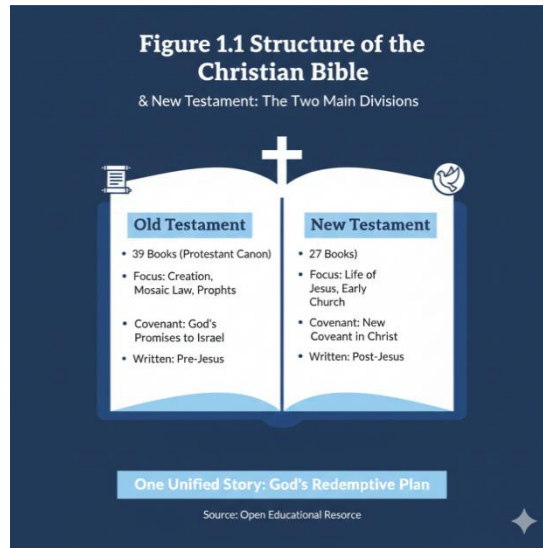


Figure 1.1 Structure of the Christian Bible

Fill in the blank: The Christian Bible is made up of the _____ Testament and the New Testament.

1.1.2 Structure of the Old and New Testaments

The Old Testament is traditionally divided into sections such as the Law (Pentateuch), the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophets. These writings reflect the covenant relationship between God and Israel, and they provide the foundation for understanding the New Testament. The New Testament is composed of the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and Revelation. The Gospels narrate the life and ministry of Jesus, Acts records the growth of the early church, the Epistles provide guidance to Christian communities, and Revelation presents visions of hope and ultimate fulfillment.



Plate 1.1 Old and New Testament writings.
Source: Open Educational Resource.

Plate 1.1 Old and New Testament writings

Fill in the blank: The Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation are the main divisions of the _____ Testament.



Pilot questions 1.1

The Christian Bible is made up of which two Testaments?

Which section of the Old Testament contains the covenant laws given to Israel?

Name one division of the New Testament that records the life and ministry of Jesus.

Which Testament includes the Prophets?

What is the final book of the New Testament?

1.2 Understanding Unity In The Christian Bible

1.2.1 Meaning of unity in the biblical context

The term unity refers to the state of being one or whole. In the biblical context, unity describes the coherence and harmony between the Old and New Testaments. Although written at different times and by different authors, both Testaments share a consistent message centered on God's plan of salvation. This unity is not about uniformity, but rather about complementarity, where the Old Testament prepares the way and the New Testament fulfills it.

Figure 1.2 Unity in biblical context

Fill in the blank: In the biblical context, unity describes the coherence and harmony between the _____ and New Testaments.

1.2.2 Theological foundations of unity

The theological foundations of unity are the underlying beliefs and doctrines that explain why the Bible is seen as a unified whole. Key foundations include the concept of covenant, defined as a binding agreement between God and His people, which runs through both Testaments. Another foundation is salvation history (Heilsgeschichte), which refers to God's unfolding plan of redemption across time. Prophecies in the Old Testament find fulfillment in the New Testament, and themes such as faith, obedience, and divine promise are consistently present. These foundations demonstrate that the Bible is not a collection of disconnected writings, but a coherent revelation of God's purpose.



Box 1.2: Theological Foundations of Unity in Christian Bible		
One Story, One Faith		
	Foundation	Description
	1. Covenant	God's promises & agreements (Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New) progressively across both relationship with humanity.
	2. Salvation History	A single, overarching narrative of God's redemptive plan, beginning/fall and culminating in a consistent relationship of future new creation.
	3. Prophecy & Fulfillment	Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah, his kingdom, and new covenant culminate in Christ's work and the future new creation.
	3. Prophecy & Fulfillment	Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah, and new are perfectly fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus of Christ the New Testament.
	4. Consistent Themes	Recurring themes like holiness, justice, love, faith, and the nature are uniformly presented throughout all biblical books, reinforcing a singular divine message.
Unified by God's unchanging character and purpose		
Source: Open Educational Resource		

Box 1.2 Theological foundations of unity in the Christian Bible

Fill in the blank: The concept of _____, a binding agreement between God and His people, runs through both Testaments.

Pilot questions 1.2

What does unity mean in the biblical context?

Which Testament is described as preparation, and which as fulfillment?

What is the theological term for God's unfolding plan of redemption across time?

Name one theological foundation of unity in the Christian Bible.

Which concept describes a binding agreement between God and His people?

1.3 Themes Linking the Old and New Testaments

1.3.1 Common theological themes

One of the strongest indicators of unity in the Christian Bible is the presence of common theological themes that run through both Testaments. These include the theme of covenant, which refers to God's binding relationship with His people, first expressed through Abraham and later fulfilled in Christ. Another is salvation, the deliverance of humanity from sin, which is foreshadowed in the Old Testament sacrifices and realized in the New Testament through Jesus' death and resurrection. The theme of promise and fulfillment also connects the Testaments, as promises made in the Old Testament find their fulfillment in the New.





Figure 1.3 Common theological themes linking the Testaments

Fill in the blank: The Old Testament sacrifices foreshadow _____, which is realized in the New Testament through Jesus.

1.3.2 Examples of thematic continuity in selected texts

Thematic continuity can be seen in specific passages. For example, the prophecy of the Messiah in Isaiah 53, describing the suffering servant, is fulfilled in the New Testament accounts of Jesus' crucifixion. The covenant promise to Abraham in Genesis 12, that all nations would be blessed through him, is echoed in the New Testament teaching that salvation is offered to all through Christ. Similarly, the theme of faith is highlighted in Habakkuk 2:4, "the righteous shall live by faith," and is reaffirmed in Romans 1:17. These examples show that the Bible presents a consistent message across its two Testaments.



Box 1.3 Examples of Thematic Continuity in the Bible		
Old Testament Passage	New Testament Fulfilment	Theme
Isaiah 53	Crucifixion Accounts (e.g., Matthew 27, Mark 15)	Prophecy & Sacrifice
Genesis 12:1-3 (Abrahamic Covenant)	Galatians 3:6-9 (Faith & Abraham's Seed)	Covenant & Faith
Habakkuk 2:4 (The Righteous Live by Faith)	Romans 1:17 (Righteousness by Faith)	Justification by Faith
One Unified Message: God's Redemptive Plan		
Source: Open Educational Resource		

Box 1.3 Examples of thematic continuity in the Bible

Fill in the blank: The covenant promise to _____ in Genesis 12 is echoed in the New Testament teaching that salvation is offered to all through Christ.

Pilot questions 1.3

Name one common theological theme that links the Old and New Testaments.

Which Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah is fulfilled in the crucifixion accounts?

What covenant promise was given to Abraham in Genesis 12?

Which verse in Habakkuk highlights the theme of faith?

Which New Testament book reaffirms the teaching that “the righteous shall live by faith”?

1.4 Implications of Unity for Christian Faith

1.4.1 Unity as a basis for doctrine and teaching

The unity of the Christian Bible provides a strong foundation for doctrine, which refers to the official teachings of the church. Because the Old and New Testaments are complementary, doctrines such as salvation, covenant, and faith are taught consistently across the Bible. This coherence ensures that Christian teaching is not fragmented, but rather rooted in a single, continuous revelation of God’s purpose. For example, the doctrine of salvation is



foreshadowed in the sacrificial system of the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament through Christ's sacrifice.

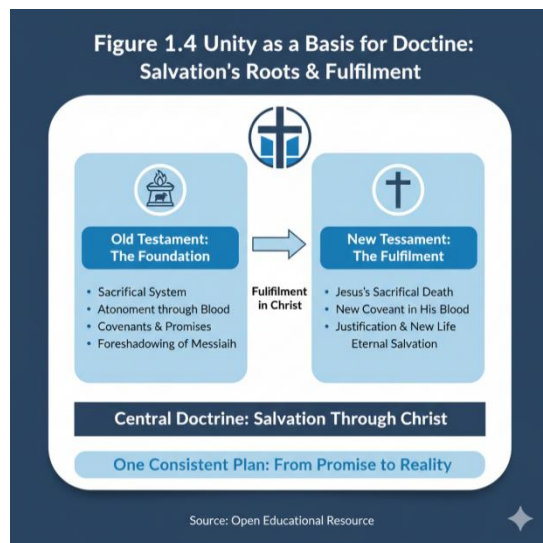


Figure 1.4 Unity as a basis for doctrine

Fill in the blank: The doctrine of _____ is foreshadowed in the Old Testament sacrificial system and fulfilled in Christ.

1.4.2 Relevance of unity for contemporary Christian practice

The unity of the Bible also has practical implications for how Christians live today. It encourages believers to see their faith as part of a larger story that spans both Testaments. This perspective strengthens commitment to values such as faith, obedience, and love, which are consistently emphasized throughout Scripture. Unity also helps Christians to interpret the Bible responsibly, avoiding selective readings that ignore the broader context. In contemporary practice, unity fosters dialogue between different Christian traditions and provides a shared foundation for worship, teaching, and mission.



Plate 1.2 Unity in contemporary Christian practice
Source: Open Educational Resource

Plate 1.2 Unity in contemporary Christian practice



Fill in the blank: The unity of the Bible encourages believers to see their faith as part of a larger _____.

Pilot questions 1.4

What does doctrine mean in the context of the Christian Bible?

Which doctrine is foreshadowed in Old Testament sacrifices and fulfilled in Christ?

How does unity help Christians interpret the Bible responsibly?

Name one value consistently emphasized across both Testaments.

What practical benefit does unity provide for contemporary Christian traditions?

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the concept of the Christian Bible as a unified whole, showing how the Old and New Testaments complement one another in content, themes, and purpose. Its relevance lies in helping you appreciate the Bible not as two separate collections of writings, but as a coherent revelation of God's plan of salvation that continues to shape Christian faith and practice today.

We began by defining the Christian Bible and examining its scope and structure. Then we explored the meaning of unity in a biblical context and the theological foundations that support it. Following that, we considered common themes such as covenant, salvation, and promise–fulfillment, with examples of continuity across both Testaments. Finally, we discussed the implications of unity for doctrine and contemporary Christian practice. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define and describe the Bible's structure, explain unity and its theological basis, identify and illustrate thematic links, and evaluate the significance of unity for Christian teaching and practice.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Christian Bible: The sacred text of Christianity, made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament, regarded as divinely inspired and authoritative for faith and practice.

Covenant: A binding agreement between God and His people, first expressed in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament through Christ.

Doctrine: The official teachings of the church, based on the unified message of the Bible, guiding belief and practice.

Epistles: Letters written by early Christian leaders, such as Paul, to churches and individuals, offering guidance and encouragement.

Gospels: The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which narrate the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Heilsgeschichte (Salvation history): A theological term meaning God's unfolding plan of redemption across time, revealed through both the Old and New Testaments.

Messiah: A promised savior in the Old Testament, fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

New Testament: The second part of the Christian Bible, focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus, the growth of the early church, and the hope of final fulfillment.



Old Testament: The first part of the Christian Bible, containing laws, history, poetry, and prophecy, which lays the foundation for the New Testament.

Prophecy: A message from God delivered through chosen individuals, often predicting future events and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Salvation: Deliverance from sin and its consequences, foreshadowed in Old Testament sacrifices and realized in the New Testament through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Unity: The coherence and harmony between the Old and New Testaments, showing them as complementary parts of one continuous revelation.

CONCEPT CHECK QUESTIONS

Objective Questions

The Christian Bible is made up of:

- a) The Torah and the Qur'an
- b) The Old Testament and the New Testament
- c) The Psalms and the Gospels
- d) The Prophets and the Epistles

(Linked to SLO 1.1)

Which section of the Old Testament contains the covenant laws given to Israel?

- a) The Prophets
- b) The Pentateuch
- c) The Wisdom Books
- d) The Historical Books

(Linked to SLO 1.2)

The theological term for God's unfolding plan of redemption across time is:

- a) Covenant
- b) Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte)
- c) Prophecy
- d) Doctrine

(Linked to SLO 1.4)

Which New Testament division narrates the life and ministry of Jesus?

- a) The Epistles



- b) The Gospels
- c) Acts of the Apostles
- d) Revelation

(Linked to SLO 1.2)

Short-Answer Questions

Define the term covenant in the biblical context.

(Linked to SLO 1.3)

Identify one common theological theme that links the Old and New Testaments.

(Linked to SLO 1.5)

Give one example of thematic continuity between an Old Testament prophecy and its New Testament fulfillment.

(Linked to SLO 1.6)

State one practical implication of biblical unity for contemporary Christian practice.

(Linked to SLO 1.8)

Long-Answer Questions

Explain the meaning of unity in the Christian Bible and analyse its theological foundations.

(Linked to SLO 1.3 and SLO 1.4)

Evaluate the implications of biblical unity for Christian doctrine and practice today.

(Linked to SLO 1.7 and SLO 1.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- b) The Old Testament and the New Testament
- b) The Pentateuch
- b) Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte)
- b) The Gospels



Short-Answer Questions

A covenant is a binding agreement between God and His people, expressed in both Testaments.

One common theme is salvation.

Isaiah 53's prophecy of the suffering servant is fulfilled in the crucifixion accounts of Jesus.

Unity encourages responsible interpretation of Scripture and strengthens shared values such as faith and obedience.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Unity in the Christian Bible refers to the coherence between the Old and New Testaments. Theological foundations include covenant, salvation history, and prophecy fulfillment.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that unity demonstrates God's consistent purpose across time, highlights the continuity of faith and obedience, and provides a framework for interpreting Scripture holistically.

Basic response: Biblical unity ensures that doctrines such as salvation and covenant are consistently taught, and it guides Christian practice today.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that unity fosters ecumenical dialogue, strengthens mission work, and provides a shared foundation for worship and teaching across diverse Christian traditions.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 1.1

The Old Testament and the New Testament

The Pentateuch

The Gospels

The Old Testament

Revelation

Part 1.2

Coherence and harmony between the Old and New Testaments

The Old Testament is preparation, and the New Testament is fulfillment

Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte)

Covenant, salvation history, prophecy fulfillment, or consistent themes

Covenant

Part 1.3

Covenant, salvation, or promise–fulfillment

Isaiah 53



That all nations would be blessed through him

Habakkuk 2:4

Romans 1:17

Part 1.4

The official teachings of the church

Salvation

By encouraging interpretation within the broader biblical context

Faith, obedience, or love

It fosters dialogue and provides a shared foundation for worship, teaching, and mission

REFERENCES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

This section compiles all references and attributions used or suggested in Series 1: The Unity of the Christian Bible. Entries are presented in APA style for clarity and consistency.

General References

Holy Bible. (Various editions). Old Testament and New Testament texts referenced for thematic continuity and doctrinal foundations.

CRS 403 Course Document: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte). University-approved course outline and content.

Illustrations

Figure 1.1 Structure of the Christian Bible

Suggested AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing the Christian Bible divided into Old Testament and New Testament."

Search string: "Christian Bible Old and New Testament structure diagram OER."

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from Open Educational Resources (OER).

Plate 1.1 Old and New Testament writings

Suggested AI prompt: "Create an illustration showing scrolls for the Old Testament and codices for the New Testament."

Search string: "Old Testament scrolls New Testament codices OER image."

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Figure 1.2 Unity in biblical context



Suggested AI prompt: “Create a diagram showing Old Testament as preparation and New Testament as fulfillment, linked by salvation.”

Search string: “Old Testament New Testament unity salvation diagram OER.”

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Box 1.2 Theological foundations of unity in the Christian Bible

Suggested AI prompt: “Create a table listing theological foundations of unity in the Christian Bible: covenant, salvation history, prophecy fulfillment, consistent themes.”

Search string: “Christian Bible unity theological foundations covenant salvation prophecy OER table.”

Attribution: Placeholder table, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Figure 1.3 Common theological themes linking the Testaments

Suggested AI prompt: “Create a diagram showing covenant, salvation, and promise–fulfillment as overlapping themes linking Old and New Testaments.”

Search string: “Christian Bible covenant salvation promise fulfillment diagram OER.”

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Box 1.3 Examples of thematic continuity in the Bible

Suggested AI prompt: “Create a table listing Old Testament verses and their New Testament fulfillments: Isaiah 53 – crucifixion, Genesis 12 – Galatians 3, Habakkuk 2:4 – Romans 1:17.”

Search string: “Old Testament New Testament thematic continuity verses OER table.”

Attribution: Placeholder table, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Figure 1.4 Unity as a basis for doctrine

Suggested AI prompt: “Create a diagram showing salvation rooted in Old Testament sacrifices and fulfilled in Christ in the New Testament.”

Search string: “Christian doctrine salvation Old Testament New Testament diagram OER.”

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.

Plate 1.2 Unity in contemporary Christian practice

Suggested AI prompt: “Create an illustration showing Christians worshipping and studying together, symbolising unity in practice.”

Search string: “Christian unity worship study practice OER image.”

Attribution: Placeholder illustration, to be generated using AI or sourced from OER.



COURSE TITLE: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte).

COURSE CODE: CRS 403:

COURSE UNITS: 3

Series 2: The Controlling Means of Salvation

Part 2.1: Concept of Salvation

2.1.1 Definition of salvation

2.1.2 Biblical foundations of salvation

Part 2.2: Means of Salvation in the Old Testament

2.2.1 Covenant and law as guiding means

2.2.2 Sacrificial system and its significance

Part 2.3: Means of Salvation in the New Testament

2.3.1 The role of Jesus Christ in salvation

2.3.2 Faith and grace as controlling means

Part 2.4: Continuity and fulfillment of Salvation

2.4.1 Relationship between Old Testament and New Testament means

2.4.2 Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) as a unifying thread

INTRODUCTION

The Christian Bible is often approached as two separate Testaments, yet its true significance lies in the unity that binds them together. This unity reveals a continuous story of God's relationship with humanity, showing how the Old Testament prepares the way and the New Testament fulfils it. By recognizing this coherence, learners can appreciate the Bible not only as a collection of sacred writings but as a unified revelation that shapes Christian belief and practice.

This Series aim to introduce you to the concept of unity within the Christian Bible and to equip you with the ability to define, explain, and evaluate how the Old and New Testaments are connected in content, themes, and purpose.

We shall commence this Series by examining the concept of the Christian Bible, including its definition and structure. Next, we will explore the meaning of unity in a biblical context and the theological foundations that support it. Following that, we will consider the themes that link the Old and New Testaments, such as covenant, salvation, and promise-fulfillment, with examples drawn from selected texts. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing the implications of this unity for Christian doctrine and practice, highlighting its relevance for contemporary faith.



Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 1.1 define the Christian Bible and explain its scope,
- SLO 1.2 describe the structure of the Old and New Testaments,
- SLO 1.3 explain the meaning of unity in the biblical context,
- SLO 1.4 analyse the theological foundations that support the unity of the Christian Bible,
- SLO 1.5 identify common theological themes linking the Old and New Testaments,
- SLO 1.6 illustrate examples of thematic continuity using selected biblical texts,
- SLO 1.7 evaluate the implications of unity for Christian doctrine, and
- SLO 1.8 appraise the relevance of biblical unity for contemporary Christian practice.

2.1 Concept of Salvation

2.1.1 Definition of salvation

The term salvation refers to deliverance from sin and its consequences, offered by God to humanity. In Christian theology, salvation is understood as God's gracious act of rescuing people from the power of sin and death, and granting them eternal life through Jesus Christ. It is central to the Christian faith and is often described as both a present reality and a future hope. Salvation is not earned by human effort but is received as a gift through faith.

Figure 2.1
Salvation as deliverance and hope
From Bondage to Eternal Life



Source: Open Educational Resource.

Figure 2.1 Salvation as deliverance and hope

Fill in the blank: Salvation is understood as God's gracious act of rescuing people from the power of _____ and death.

2.1.2 Biblical foundations of salvation



The biblical foundations of salvation are found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, salvation is often portrayed in terms of God delivering Israel from enemies, bondage, or exile. For example, the Exodus story demonstrates God's saving power in freeing Israel from Egypt. In the New Testament, salvation takes on a fuller meaning, centred on Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The Gospels present Jesus as the Saviour, while the Epistles explain salvation as a gift of grace received through faith. Together, these foundations show that salvation is both historical and spiritual, rooted in God's consistent purpose across time.

Box 2.1
Selected Biblical Foundations of Salvation
A Legacy of Deliverance & Grace

Biblical Testament	Example/Event	Key Themes
Exodus		Deliverance from Slavery; God's Covenant Faithfulness
Deliverance from Enemies/Oppressors (e.g., Judges, Psalms)		Divine Rescue; New Covenant, Protection, Justice
Jesus' Death & Resurrection		Atonement; New Covenant; Victory over Death
Salvation by Grace Through Faith (e.g., Ephesians 2:8-9)		Undeserved Favor; Justification, New Life

One Consistent Plan: From Bondage to Eternal Life

Source: Open Educational Resource

Box 2.1 Selected biblical foundations of salvation

Fill in the blank: In the New Testament, salvation is centred on _____ Christ's death and resurrection.

Pilot questions 2.1

What does salvation mean in Christian theology?

How is salvation portrayed in the Old Testament?

Which New Testament event is central to the concept of salvation?

What role does faith play in receiving salvation?

Give one example of salvation as deliverance in the Old Testament.

2.3 Means of Salvation in The New Testament

2.3.1 The role of Jesus Christ in salvation

In the New Testament, the central means of salvation is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. His life, death, and resurrection are presented as the ultimate fulfillment of God's saving plan. Jesus is described as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Unlike the temporary sacrifices of the Old Testament, His sacrifice is once-for-all, providing eternal redemption. This makes Christ the cornerstone of salvation, and faith in Him the decisive response required of believers.



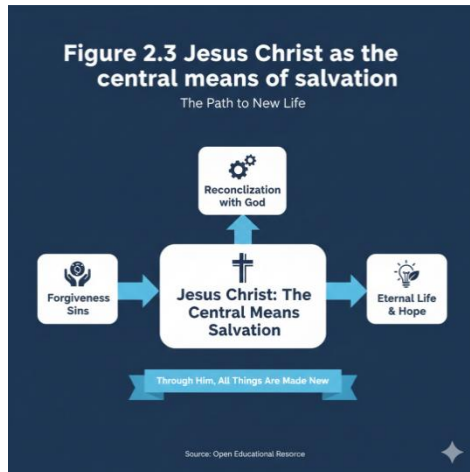


Figure 2.3 Jesus Christ as the central means of salvation

Fill in the blank: Jesus is described in the New Testament as the _____ of God who takes away the sin of the world.

2.3.2 Faith and grace as controlling means

The New Testament also emphasizes faith and grace as controlling means of salvation. Faith is defined as trust and belief in God's promises, particularly in the saving work of Jesus Christ. Grace refers to God's unmerited favour, freely given to humanity. Salvation is not achieved by works or human effort, but by receiving God's grace through faith. Paul's letters, especially Romans and Ephesians, highlight that salvation is "by grace through faith," underscoring that it is both a divine gift and a personal response.

Box 2.3 Faith and grace in salvation
Receiving God's Unmerited Favor

Concept	Biblical Foundation
God's unmerited favor; the divine initiative of salvation cannot be earned through works.	"For by grace you have th (Ephesians 2:8a)
Grace The trust and belief in Jesus Christ; means a person receives God's gift.	"...through faith—and this not from yourselves of God." is (Ephesians 2:8b)
Faith The trust and belief in means why a person receives God's gift of grace.	"...through faith—and this in (Ephesians 2:8b)

One Unified Process: Grace Through Faith

Source: Open Educational Resource

Box 2.3 Faith and grace in salvation

Fill in the blank: Salvation is described in Paul's letters as "by _____ through faith."

Pilot questions 2.3



Who is presented as the central means of salvation in the New Testament?

How is Jesus' sacrifice different from Old Testament sacrifices?

What does faith mean in the context of salvation?

Define grace as it relates to salvation.

Which New Testament letters emphasize salvation as "by grace through faith"?

2.4 Continuity and fulfillment of Salvation

2.4.1 Relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament means

The Old Testament presents salvation through covenant, law, and sacrifices, while the New Testament reveals salvation through Jesus Christ, faith, and grace. These are not contradictory but complementary. The Old Testament served as preparation, pointing forward to the ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The New Testament shows how Jesus embodies and completes what the covenant and sacrificial system anticipated. In this way, the two Testaments are connected by a single divine plan, demonstrating continuity across history.



Figure 2.4 Continuity between the Old and New Testaments means of salvation

Fill in the blank: The Old Testament means of salvation served as _____, pointing forward to the ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

2.4.2 Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) as a unifying thread

The concept of salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) provides a unifying thread that ties together the Old and New Testaments. It refers to God's unfolding plan of redemption across time, beginning with creation, continuing through Israel's history, and culminating in Jesus Christ. This perspective shows that salvation is not an isolated event but a continuous story of God's faithfulness. By viewing the Bible through the lens of salvation history, believers can see how God's promises are fulfilled progressively and consistently, reinforcing the unity of the Testaments.



Box 2.5 Key Apostolic Teachings on Salvation		
Doctrines from the New Testament Epistles		
Doctrine	Description	Key Biblical Texts
Justification by Faith	Romans 3:2-24, Ephesians 2:16	2 Cor. 3:23-24, Eph. 2:8-9
Justification by	Christ's death is substitutionary sacrifice that brings in Christ.	2 Cor. 5:21, Heb. 9:22, 9:22
Atonement	Romans 5:10-11, 2 Corinthians 5:21	Hebrews 9:22
Atonement	The true broken relationship between God and man through Christ.	Titus 3:5
Regeneration/New Birth	John 3:5-7	2 Corinthians 5:18-19
Reconciliation	Romans 1:5	Romans 5:1
Redemption	The bought back from that God Spirit's Spirit	Romans 11:14
Sanctification	The Holy Spirit's work in the heart	Romans 12:18-19
Sanctification	1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews the Holy Spirit's work.	1 Corinthians 15:53-54
Glorification	Romans 8:30	1 Corinthians 15:53-54

Box 2.4 Outline of salvation history (Heilsgeschichte)

Fill in the blank: Salvation history refers to God's unfolding plan of _____ across time.

Pilot questions 2.4

How do the Old Testament mean of salvation relate to the New Testament fulfillment?

What role does Jesus Christ play in completing the Old Testament means?

Define salvation history (Heilsgeschichte).

List two stages in salvation history.

How does salvation history reinforce the unity of the Testaments?

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the central means of salvation, highlighting its importance for understanding the Christian faith and its continuity across the Bible. The purpose was to show how salvation is revealed in both the Old and New Testaments, and how these means are fulfilled in Christ. By exploring this theme, learners have been guided to see salvation not as isolated practices but as part of God's consistent plan of redemption.

We began by defining salvation and examining its biblical foundations. Then we considered the means of salvation in the Old Testament, including covenant, law, and the sacrificial system. Next, we explored the New Testament emphasis on Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of salvation, alongside faith and grace as controlling means. Finally, we discussed the continuity between the Testaments and salvation history as a unifying thread. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define salvation, describe its biblical foundations, explain Old and New Testament means, analyze their relationship, and evaluate how salvation history demonstrates God's consistent purpose across time.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Covenant: A binding agreement between God and His people in the Old Testament, establishing their relationship and guiding them through promises and responsibilities.



Faith: Trust and belief in God's promises, especially in the saving work of Jesus Christ, which is essential for receiving salvation in the New Testament.

Grace: God's unmerited favour freely given to humanity, making salvation possible not by human effort but as a divine gift.

Heilsgeschichte (Salvation history): A theological term meaning God's unfolding plan of redemption across time, beginning with creation, continuing through Israel, and fulfilled in Christ.

Jesus Christ: The central figure of the New Testament, whose life, death, and resurrection are presented as the ultimate means of salvation.

Law: The set of instructions given to Israel through Moses, guiding them in holiness and obedience as part of their covenant relationship with God.

Sacrificial system: The Old Testament practice of offering sacrifices, particularly animals, to symbolize atonement for sin and dependence on God's mercy.

Salvation: Deliverance from sin and its consequences, offered by God as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ, and central to Christian belief.

Series Learning Outcomes (SLOs): Statements that describe what learners should be able to do by the end of a Series, aligned with its instructional content.

Unity: The coherence and harmony between the Old and New Testaments, showing them as complementary parts of one continuous plan of salvation.

CONCEPT CHECK QUESTIONS

Objective Questions

Salvation in Christian theology is best defined as:

- a) Deliverance from poverty
- b) Deliverance from sin and its consequences
- c) Deliverance from sickness
- d) Deliverance from exile

(Linked to SLO 2.1)

Which Old Testament practice symbolized atonement for sin and dependence on God's mercy?

- a) Covenant
- b) Sacrificial system
- c) Prophecy



d) Law

(Linked to SLO 2.2)

The New Testament presents salvation as:

a) Earned by works

b) Achieved through law

c) By grace through faith

d) Through repeated sacrifices

(Linked to SLO 2.3)

The theological term Heilsgeschichte refers to:

a) Covenant law

b) Salvation history

c) Prophetic fulfillment

d) Eternal judgement

(Linked to SLO 2.4)

Short-Answer Questions

Define salvation in the context of Christian theology.

(Linked to SLO 2.1)

Identify one guiding means of salvation in the Old Testament.

(Linked to SLO 2.2)

Explain how Jesus Christ is presented as the central means of salvation in the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 2.3)

State one stage in salvation history (Heilsgeschichte).

(Linked to SLO 2.4)

Long-Answer Questions



Analyse the role of covenant and law as means of salvation in the Old Testament.

(Linked to SLO 2.2)

Evaluate the continuity between Old Testament and New Testament means of salvation, highlighting how salvation history unifies them.

(Linked to SLO 2.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- b) Deliverance from sin and its consequences
- b) Sacrificial system
- c) By grace through faith
- b) Salvation history

Short-Answer Questions

Salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences, offered by God as a gift through faith in Christ.

One guiding means is the covenant.

Jesus is described as the Lamb of God whose death and resurrection provide eternal redemption.

One stage is the covenant with Israel.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Covenant and law guided Israel's relationship with God, providing instructions for holiness and obedience. They served as a means of maintaining fellowship with God.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that covenant and law were preparatory, pointing forward to Christ's fulfillment, and that they reveal God's consistent purpose in shaping Israel's identity and anticipating redemption.

Basic response: Old Testament means such as covenant, law, and sacrifices prepared the way for New Testament fulfillment in Christ, faith, and grace.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that salvation history demonstrates God's unfolding plan across time, showing continuity from creation through Israel to Christ and the church, reinforcing unity and coherence in Christian theology.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 2.1

Salvation means deliverance from sin and its consequences, offered by God through Christ.



In the Old Testament, salvation is portrayed as God delivering Israel from enemies, bondage, or exile.

Jesus Christ's death and resurrection are central to salvation in the New Testament.

Faith plays the role of trusting and believing in God's promises, especially in Christ's saving work.

An example is the Exodus, where God delivered Israel from Egypt.

Part 2.2

The covenant established Israel's relationship with God, promising blessings for obedience.

The law guided Israel in holiness and obedience as part of their covenant relationship.

The sacrificial system symbolized atonement for sin and dependence on God's mercy.

The Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.

It foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Part 2.3

Jesus Christ is presented as the central means of salvation.

His sacrifice is once-for-all, unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Faith means trust and belief in God's promises, especially in Christ's saving work.

Grace is God's unmerited favour, freely given to humanity.

Romans and Ephesians emphasize salvation as "by grace through faith."

Part 2.4

The Old Testament prepared the way for New Testament fulfillment.

Jesus Christ completes and fulfils the covenant and sacrificial system.

Salvation history is God's unfolding plan of redemption across time.

Two stages are creation and the covenant with Israel.

It shows God's promises fulfilled progressively, reinforcing the unity of the Testaments.

REFERENCES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

This section compiles all references and illustration attributions used or suggested in Series 2: The Central Means of Salvation. Entries are presented in APA style for clarity and consistency.

General References



Holy Bible. (Various editions). Old Testament and New Testament texts referenced for salvation themes and doctrinal foundations.

CRS 403 Course Document: The Central Means of Salvation. University-approved course outline and instructional content.

Illustrations

Figure 2.1 Salvation as deliverance and hope

Description: Diagram showing salvation as deliverance from sin and death, leading to eternal life.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing salvation as deliverance from sin and death, leading to eternal life."

Search string: "Christian salvation deliverance eternal life diagram OER."

Box 2.1 Selected biblical foundations of salvation

Description: Table listing examples of salvation in the Old Testament (Exodus, deliverance from enemies) and New Testament (Jesus' death and resurrection, grace through faith).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table listing biblical foundations of salvation: Old Testament examples like Exodus, New Testament examples like Jesus' death and resurrection."

Search string: "Biblical foundations of salvation Old Testament New Testament OER table."

Figure 2.2 Covenant and law as guiding means

Description: Diagram showing covenant and law as guiding means of salvation in the Old Testament.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing covenant and law as guiding means of salvation in the Old Testament."

Search string: "Old Testament covenant law salvation diagram OER."

Box 2.2 Examples of Old Testament sacrifices

Description: Table listing types of sacrifices (burnt offering, sin offering, peace offering) and their purposes.

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table listing Old Testament sacrifices: burnt offering, sin offering, peace offering, with purposes."

Search string: "Old Testament sacrifices burnt sin peace offering table OER."

Figure 2.3 Jesus Christ as the central means of salvation

Description: Diagram showing Jesus Christ as the central means of salvation, linked to forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.



AI prompt: “Create a diagram showing Jesus Christ as the central means of salvation, linked to forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.”

Search string: “Jesus Christ salvation forgiveness reconciliation eternal life diagram OER.”

Box 2.3 Faith and grace in salvation

Description: Table summarising faith (trust in Christ) and grace (God’s unmerited favour) as controlling means of salvation.

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: “Create a table summarising faith and grace as controlling means of salvation in the New Testament.”

Search string: “Faith grace salvation New Testament table OER.”

Figure 2.4 Continuity between Old and New Testament means of salvation

Description: Diagram showing Old Testament means (covenant, law, sacrifices) leading into New Testament fulfillment (Christ, faith, grace).

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: “Create a diagram showing Old Testament means of salvation leading into New Testament fulfillment in Christ.”

Search string: “Old Testament New Testament continuity salvation diagram OER.”

Box 2.4 Outline of salvation history (Heilsgeschichte)

Description: Table summarizing stages of salvation history: creation, covenant with Israel, prophecy, Christ’s fulfillment, church mission, final consummation.

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: “Create a table summarizing salvation history stages: creation, covenant, prophecy, Christ, church, consummation.”

Search string: “Salvation history Heilsgeschichte stages table OER.”



COURSE TITLE: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte).

COURSE CODE: CRS 403:

COURSE UNITS: 3

Series 3: Historical View of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte)

Part 3.1: Concept of Salvation History (Heilsgeschichte)

3.1.1 Definition and meaning of salvation history

3.1.2 Importance of salvation history for biblical unity

Part 3.2: Salvation History in the Old Testament

3.2.1 Creation and covenant beginnings

3.2.2 Prophets and promises of redemption

Part 3.3: Salvation History in the New Testament

3.3.1 fulfillment in Jesus Christ

3.3.2 The mission of the church and future hope

Part 3.4: Continuity and Coherence of Salvation History

3.4.1 Linking Old Testament preparation with New Testament fulfillment

3.4.2 Salvation history as a framework for Christian theology

INTRODUCTION

In the last Series, we examined the central means of salvation, focusing on covenant, law, sacrifice, and their fulfillment in Christ. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to the historical unfolding of God's saving plan, often described as Heilsgeschichte or salvation history. By tracing this divine plan across the Old and New Testaments, learners will see how God's actions in history reveal a continuous story of redemption, making this Series highly relevant to understanding the coherence of the Christian faith.

This series aims to introduce you to the concept of salvation history and to equip you with the ability to explain its meaning, identify its stages in both Testaments, and evaluate its significance for Christian theology.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the concept of salvation history, defining its meaning and highlighting its importance for biblical unity. Next, we will examine salvation history in the Old Testament, beginning with creation and covenant, and moving on to the role of prophets and promises of redemption. Following that, we will consider salvation history in the New Testament, focusing on its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and the mission of the church. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing the continuity and coherence of salvation history, showing how it provides a framework for Christian theology and reinforces the unity of the Bible.



Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 3.1 defines the concept of salvation history (Heilsgeschichte),
- SLO 3.2 explain the importance of salvation history for biblical unity,
- SLO 3.3: Describe key stages of salvation history in the Old Testament.
- SLO 3.4 analyze the role of prophets and promises of redemption in the Old Testament,
- SLO 3.5 explain how salvation history is fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the New Testament,
- SLO 3.6 identify the mission of the church and its role in continuing salvation history,
- SLO 3.7 evaluate the continuity between Old Testament preparation and New Testament fulfillment, and
- SLO 3.8 appraise salvation history as a framework for Christian theology.

3.1 Concept of Salvation History (Heilsgeschichte)

3.1.1 Definition and meaning of salvation history

The term salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) refers to God's unfolding plan of redemption across time. It highlights how God acts within human history to bring about deliverance, beginning with creation, continuing through Israel's covenant relationship, and culminating in Jesus Christ. Unlike general history, salvation history is theological, meaning it interprets events as part of God's purposeful plan to save humanity. This concept helps believers see the Bible not as disconnected stories but as one continuous narrative of God's faithfulness.

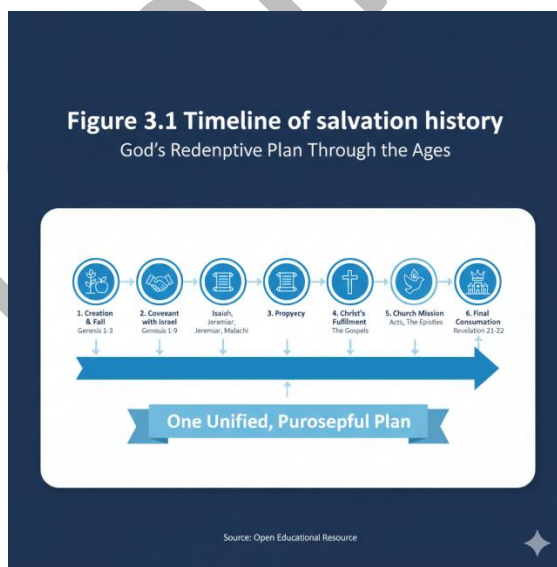


Figure 3.1 Timeline of salvation history

Fill in the blank: Salvation history refers to God's unfolding plan of _____ across time.

3.1.2 Importance of salvation history for biblical unity

The importance of salvation history lies in its ability to demonstrate the unity of the Old and New Testaments. By tracing God's saving acts across time, we see how the promises made in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New



Testament. For example, the covenant with Abraham finds its fulfillment in Christ, and the prophecies of the prophets are realized in the Gospel accounts. Salvation history therefore provides a framework for understanding the Bible as a coherent whole, rather than as separate writings. It also strengthens Christian theology by showing that God's plan is consistent, purposeful, and reliable.

Box 3.1 Key reasons salvation history is important for biblical unity

God's Unified Plan Across the Ages

Reason	Contribution to Biblical Unity
Connects the Testaments	Bridges the gap between Old & New Testaments
Shows	Promises & covenants find "Yes" in Christ.
Shows Fulfillment	Explains Law, sacrifice of Christ.
Theological Coherence	Explains Law, sacrifice and grace.
Strengthens Faith	Builds trust in God's faithfulness

One Coherent Story: From Promise to Fulfillment

Source: Open Educational Resource

Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 9:33:02 PM WAT

Box 3.1 Key reasons salvation history is important for biblical unity

Fill in the blank: Salvation history shows that God's plan is consistent, _____, and reliable.

Pilot questions 3.1

What does the term salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) mean?

How is salvation history different from general history?

What are some key stages in salvation history?

Why is salvation history important for biblical unity?

Give one example of an Old Testament promise fulfilled in the New Testament.

3.2 Salvation History in The Old Testament

3.2.1 Creation and covenant beginnings

The Old Testament presents salvation history as beginning with creation, where God establishes the world and humanity in His image. This act sets the foundation for His relationship with humankind. Following creation, God initiates covenants, which are binding agreements that define His relationship with His people. The covenant with Noah symbolized God's mercy after the flood, while the covenant with Abraham promised blessing and a chosen people through whom salvation would come. These beginnings show that salvation history is rooted in God's initiative and faithfulness, not human achievement.



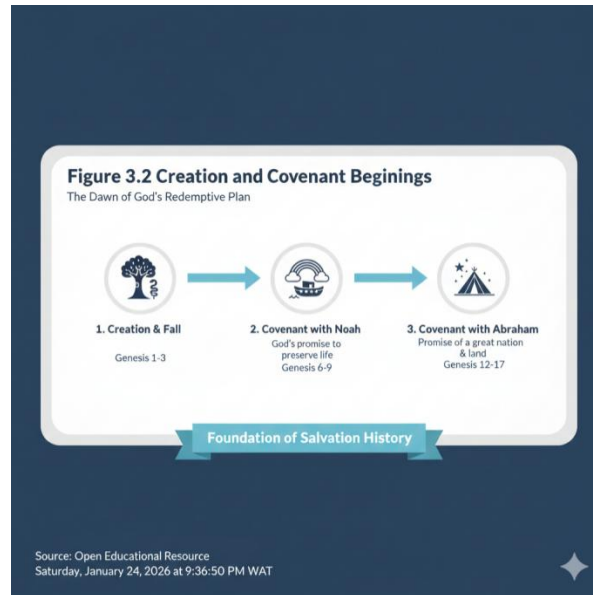


Figure 3.2 Creation and covenant beginnings

Fill in the blank: The covenant with _____ promised blessing and a chosen people through whom salvation would come.

3.2.2 Prophets and promises of redemption

The prophets played a vital role in salvation history by calling Israel back to faithfulness and announcing God's promises of redemption. They reminded the people of their covenant responsibilities and warned against disobedience. At the same time, they pointed forward to a future hope, including the coming of a Messiah who would bring ultimate salvation. These promises of redemption gave Israel assurance that God's plan was ongoing, even in times of exile and hardship. The prophetic voice thus served as both correction and encouragement, keeping the people focused on God's saving purpose.



Box 3.2 Selected prophetic promises of redemption

Fill in the blank: The prophets pointed forward to the coming of a _____ who would bring ultimate salvation.

Pilot questions 3.2

What role does creation play in salvation history?

Name one covenant that marks the beginning of salvation history.

What was the role of prophets in Israel's salvation history?

Give one example of a prophetic promise of redemption.

How did the prophets provide both correction and encouragement?

3.3 Salvation History in The New Testament

3.3.1 fulfillment in Jesus Christ

In the New Testament, salvation history reaches its climax in Jesus Christ, who is presented as the fulfillment of God's promises made throughout the Old Testament. His life, death, and resurrection are central events that bring redemption to humanity. Jesus is described as the Messiah foretold by the prophets, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one who inaugurates the new covenant. Through Him, salvation is no longer limited to Israel but extended to all nations, showing the universal scope of God's plan.

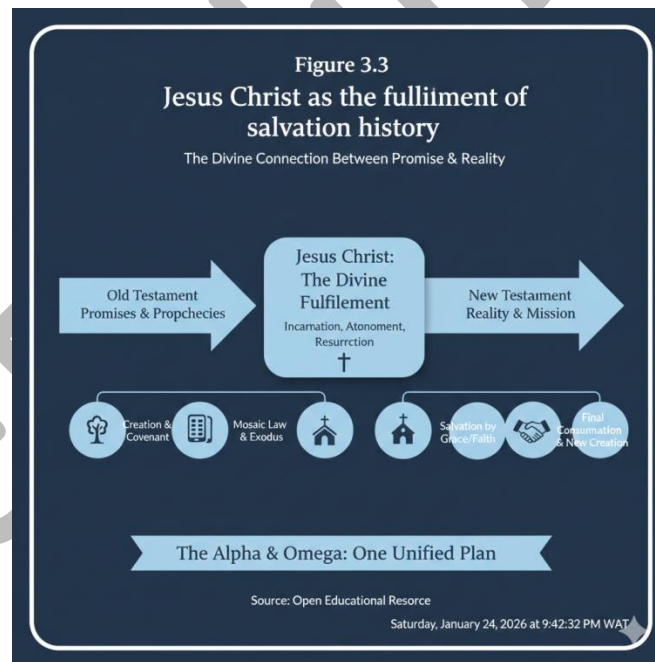


Figure 3.3 Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of salvation history

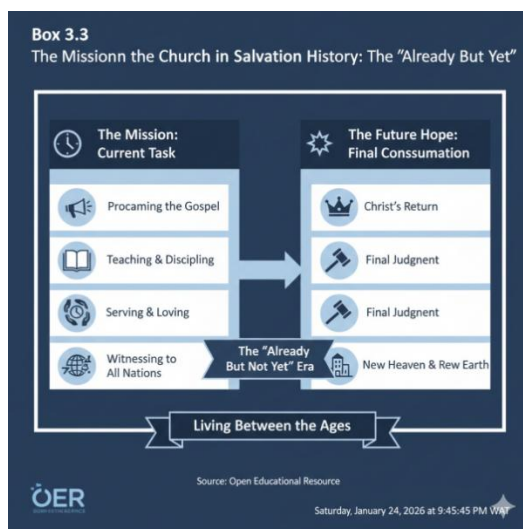
Fill in the blank: Jesus is described as the _____ of God who takes away the sin of the world.

3.3.2 The mission of the church and future hope

The mission of the church continues salvation history by proclaiming the Gospel and extending God's saving work to all people. The church is seen as the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness, teach, and serve.



This mission is not only about the present but also points forward to the future hope of final consummation, when Christ will return, and God's kingdom will be fully realized. Thus, the New Testament presents salvation history as both fulfilled in Christ and ongoing through the church until its ultimate completion.



Box 3.3 The mission of the church in salvation history

Fill in the blank: The mission of the church continues salvation history by proclaiming the _____ to all people.

Pilot questions 3.3

How is Jesus Christ presented as the fulfillment of salvation history?

What titles are used in the New Testament to describe Jesus' role in salvation?

What is the mission of the church in salvation history?

How does the church's mission connect to the future hope?

What does the New Testament teach about the final consummation of salvation history?

3.4 Continuity and Coherence of Salvation History

3.4.1 Linking Old Testament preparation with New Testament fulfillment

Salvation history demonstrates how the Old Testament prepares the way for the New Testament. The covenants, laws, and prophetic promises in Israel's story were not ends in themselves but anticipations of Christ's coming. For example, the covenant with Abraham promised blessing to all nations, which is fulfilled in Jesus. The sacrificial system pointed forward to His once-for-all sacrifice, and the prophets foretold His role as Messiah. This linking of preparation and fulfillment shows that God's plan is consistent and purposeful across both Testaments.



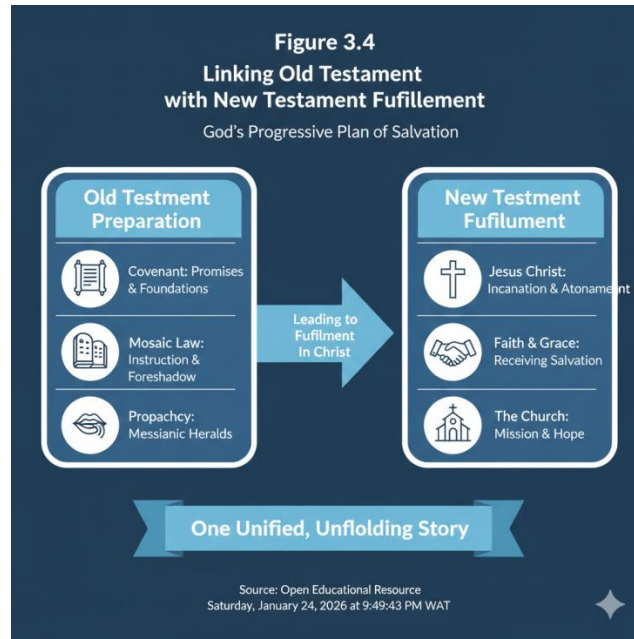
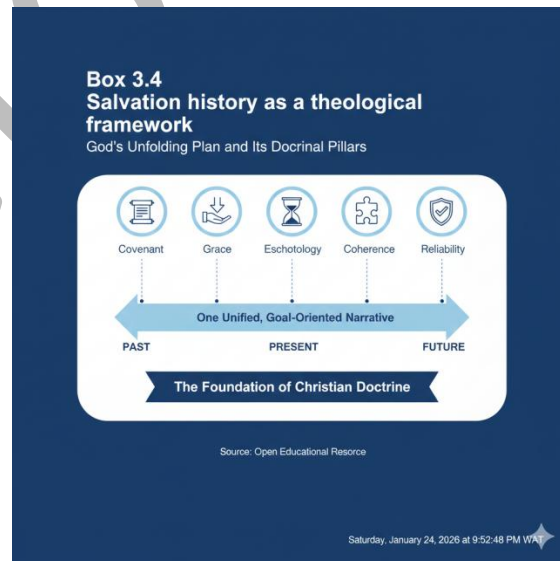


Figure 3.4 Linking Old Testament preparation with New Testament fulfillment

Fill in the blank: The sacrificial system pointed forward to Christ's _____ sacrifice.

3.4.2 Salvation history as a framework for Christian theology

The concept of salvation history provides a framework for Christian theology, helping believers interpret the Bible as a unified whole. By tracing God's saving acts across time, theology gains coherence and clarity. Doctrines such as covenant, grace, and eschatology are better understood when placed within the larger story of God's plan. This framework also strengthens faith, as it shows that God's promises are reliable and fulfilled progressively. Salvation history, therefore, serves not only as a historical perspective but also as a theological lens through which Christians can interpret their faith and practice.



Box 3.4 Salvation history as a theological framework



Fill in the blank: Salvation history strengthens faith by showing that God's promises are _____ and fulfilled progressively.

Pilot questions 3.4

How does the Old Testament prepare the way for the New Testament?

Give one example of an Old Testament practice fulfilled in Christ.

What role does salvation history play in Christian theology?

How does salvation history help believers interpret the Bible as a unified whole?

Why does salvation history strengthen faith?

Series Summary

This Series has explored salvation history (Heilsgeschichte), showing how God's saving plan unfolds across the Old and New Testaments. Its purpose was to highlight the historical and theological coherence of the Bible, helping learners see the Scriptures as one continuous narrative of redemption. By tracing God's actions from creation to covenant, prophecy, fulfillment in Christ, and the mission of the church, the Series has demonstrated the relevance of salvation history for Christian faith and theology.

We began by defining salvation history and explaining its importance for biblical unity. Then we examined its stages in the Old Testament, focusing on creation, covenant beginnings, and prophetic promises of redemption. Next, we explored the New Testament, where salvation history reaches fulfillment in Jesus Christ and continues through the mission of the church towards future hope. Finally, we discussed the continuity between Old Testament preparation and New Testament fulfillment, and how salvation history provides a framework for Christian theology. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define salvation history, describe its stages, analyze its role in prophecy and fulfillment, and evaluate its significance for theology and faith.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abrahamic covenant: The promise God made to Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation and bring blessing to all peoples.

Creation: The beginning of salvation history, where God establishes the world and humanity in His image.

Future hope: The expectation in the New Testament that Christ will return and God's kingdom will be fully realized.

Heilsgeschichte (salvation history): A theological term referring to God's unfolding plan of redemption across time, from creation to final consummation.

Jesus Christ: The central figure of the New Testament, presented as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises and the one who brings salvation to all nations.

Messiah: A title meaning "anointed one," used in the Old Testament prophecies and fulfilled in Jesus Christ as the Saviour.



Mission of the church: The ongoing work of proclaiming the Gospel, teaching, serving, and witnessing, continuing salvation history until its completion.

New covenant: The covenant inaugurated by Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection, offering forgiveness and eternal life.

Prophets: God's messengers in the Old Testament who called Israel back to faithfulness and announced promises of redemption.

Sacrificial system: The Old Testament practice of offering sacrifices, especially animals, to symbolize atonement for sin and dependence on God's mercy.

Unity: The coherence between the Old and New Testaments, showing them as complementary parts of one continuous plan of salvation.

CONCEPT CHECK QUESTIONS

Objective Questions

Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) refers to:

- a) General human history
- b) God's unfolding plan of redemption across time
- c) Israel's political history
- d) The history of the church only

(Linked to SLO 3.1)

Which covenant promised blessing to all nations through Abraham's descendants?

- a) Mosaic covenant
- b) Noahic covenant
- c) Abrahamic covenant
- d) Davidic covenant

(Linked to SLO 3.3)

The prophets in the Old Testament primarily:

- a) Recorded genealogies
- b) Announced God's promises of redemption and called Israel back to faithfulness
- c) Served as kings of Israel
- d) Wrote hymns for worship

(Linked to SLO 3.4)



In the New Testament, salvation history reaches its climax in:

- a) The law of Moses
- b) The temple sacrifices
- c) Jesus Christ
- d) The exile in Babylon

(Linked to SLO 3.5)

Short-Answer Questions

Define salvation history (Heilsgeschichte).

(Linked to SLO 3.1)

Explain why salvation history is important for biblical unity.

(Linked to SLO 3.2)

Identify one prophetic promise of redemption in the Old Testament.

(Linked to SLO 3.4)

State one way the mission of the church continues salvation history.

(Linked to SLO 3.6)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyze how the covenants and prophets in the Old Testament prepare the way for New Testament fulfillment.

(Linked to SLO 3.7)

Evaluate salvation history as a framework for Christian theology, highlighting its role in coherence and strengthening faith.

(Linked to SLO 3.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- b) God's unfolding plan of redemption across time
- c) Abrahamic covenant
- b) Announced God's promises of redemption and called Israel back to faithfulness
- c) Jesus Christ

Short-Answer Questions

Salvation history is God's unfolding plan of redemption across time, beginning with creation and culminating in Christ.



It shows the unity of the Old and New Testaments, connecting promises and fulfillment into one coherent narrative.

Jeremiah's promise of a new covenant.

By proclaiming the Gospel and extending God's saving work to all nations.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Covenants such as those with Abraham and Moses, along with prophetic promises, prepared Israel for the coming of Christ.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that these elements reveal God's consistent purpose, with the sacrificial system and messianic prophecies pointing directly to Jesus as the fulfillment of salvation history.

Basic response: Salvation history provides a framework for theology by showing coherence between doctrines and God's promises.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that it strengthens faith by demonstrating God's reliability, offers a lens for interpreting doctrines such as covenant and grace, and situates eschatology within the larger narrative of redemption.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 3.1

Salvation history (Heilsgeschichte) means God's unfolding plan of redemption across time.

It differs from general history because it interprets events as part of God's saving purpose.

Key stages include creation, covenant, prophecy, Christ, church, and final consummation.

It is important for biblical unity because it connects promises in the Old Testament with fulfillment in the New Testament.

The covenant with Abraham is fulfilled in Christ.

Part 3.2

Creation sets the foundation for God's relationship with humanity in salvation history.

The covenant with Noah or Abraham marks the beginning of salvation history.

The prophets reminded Israel of covenant responsibilities and announced promises of redemption.

Isaiah's vision of the Messiah is one example.

They corrected disobedience and encouraged hope in God's ongoing plan.

Part 3.3

Jesus Christ is presented as the fulfillment of God's promises and the climax of salvation history.

Titles include Messiah, Lamb of God, and Saviour.



The mission of the church is to proclaim the Gospel and extend God's saving work.

It connects to the future hope by pointing to Christ's return and the final consummation.

The New Testament teaches that salvation history will conclude with Christ's return and the full realization of God's kingdom.

Part 3.4

The Old Testament prepares the way for the New Testament through covenants, laws, and prophecies.

The sacrificial system is fulfilled in Christ's once-for-all sacrifice.

Salvation history provides a framework for Christian theology.

It helps believers interpret the Bible as a unified whole.

It strengthens faith by showing God's promises are reliable and progressively fulfilled.

REFERENCES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

This section compiles all references and illustration attributions used or suggested in Series 3: Historical View of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte). Entries are presented in APA style for clarity and consistency.

General References

Holy Bible. (Various editions). Old Testament and New Testament texts referenced for salvation history and theological foundations.

CRS 403 Course Document: Historical View of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte). University-approved course outline and instructional content.

Illustrations

Figure 3.1 Timeline of salvation history

Description: Diagram showing salvation history as a timeline from creation, covenant, prophecy, Christ, church, and final consummation.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a timeline diagram showing salvation history stages: creation, covenant, prophecy, Christ, church, consummation."

Search string: "Salvation history timeline diagram OER."

Box 3.1 Key reasons salvation history is important for biblical unity

Description: Table listing reasons such as connecting Old and New Testaments, showing fulfillment of promises, providing theological coherence, and strengthening faith.

Attribution: Placeholder table.



AI prompt: "Create a table listing reasons salvation history is important for biblical unity: connects Testaments, shows fulfillment, provides coherence, strengthens faith."

Search string: "Salvation history importance biblical unity table OER."

Figure 3.2 Creation and covenant beginnings

Description: Diagram showing creation leading to covenants with Noah and Abraham as stages in salvation history.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing creation leading to covenants with Noah and Abraham as stages in salvation history."

Search string: "Creation covenant Noah Abraham salvation history diagram OER."

Box 3.2 Selected prophetic promises of redemption

Description: Table listing examples of prophetic promises (Isaiah's vision of the Messiah, Jeremiah's new covenant, Ezekiel's restoration of Israel).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table listing prophetic promises of redemption: Isaiah's Messiah, Jeremiah's new covenant, Ezekiel's restoration."

Search string: "Prophetic promises redemption Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel OER table."

Figure 3.3 Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of salvation history

Description: Diagram showing Jesus Christ at the centre of salvation history, connecting Old Testament promises to New Testament fulfillment.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing Jesus Christ at the centre of salvation history, linking Old Testament promises to New Testament fulfillment."

Search string: "Jesus Christ fulfillment salvation history diagram OER."

Box 3.3 The mission of the church in salvation history

Description: Table summarizing the mission of the church (proclaiming the Gospel, teaching, serving, witnessing) and the future hope (Christ's return, final consummation).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table summarizing the mission of the church in salvation history and the future hope of Christ's return."

Search string: "Mission of the church salvation history future hope OER table."

Figure 3.4 Linking Old Testament preparation with New Testament fulfillment



Description: Diagram showing Old Testament preparation (covenant, law, prophecy) leading into New Testament fulfillment (Christ, faith, grace).

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing Old Testament preparation (covenant, law, prophecy) leading into New Testament fulfillment in Christ."

Search string: "Old Testament New Testament fulfillment salvation history diagram OER."

Box 3.4 Salvation history as a theological framework

Description: Table summarizing how salvation history supports Christian theology (covenant, grace, eschatology, coherence of doctrine, reliability of promises).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table summarising how salvation history supports Christian theology: covenant, grace, eschatology, coherence, reliability."

Search string: "Salvation history Christian theology framework OER table."

COURSE TITLE: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte).

COURSE CODE: CRS 403

COURSE UNITS: 3

Series 4: Similarities in the Contents of the Old and New Testaments

Part 4.1: Thematic parallels in salvation

4.1.1 Deliverance in the Old Testament (Exodus, covenant)

4.1.2 Deliverance in the New Testament (Christ, grace, faith)

Part 4.2: Covenant and law across the Testaments

4.2.1 Old Testament covenant and law as guiding means

4.2.2 New Testament covenant in Christ and law of love

Part 4.3: Prophecy and fulfillment

4.3.1 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament

4.3.2 fulfillment in Jesus Christ in the New Testament

Part 4.4: Worship and community life

4.4.1 Sacrificial system and temple worship in the Old Testament



4.4.2 Christ-centered worship and church community in the New Testament

INTRODUCTION

In the last Series, we examined salvation history, tracing God's unfolding plan of redemption across the Old and New Testaments. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to the similarities between the two Testaments, highlighting the parallels that reveal their unity and coherence. By recognizing these shared themes, learners will gain a deeper appreciation of how the Bible presents one continuous story of God's saving work, making this Series highly relevant to the overall course.

This series aims to help you identify, explain, and evaluate the key similarities in the contents of the Old and New Testaments, showing how they complement one another and reinforce the central message of salvation.

We shall commence this Series by exploring thematic parallels in salvation, beginning with deliverance in the Old Testament and moving on to deliverance in the New Testament. Next, we will examine covenant and law across the Testaments, considering the guiding role of the Old Testament covenant and the new covenant in Christ. Following that, we will study prophecy and fulfillment, focusing on messianic prophecies and their realization in Jesus Christ. Finally, we will wrap up by looking at worship and community life, comparing sacrificial and temple worship in the Old Testament with Christ-centered worship and the life of the church in the New Testament.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 4.1: Describe thematic parallels in salvation between the Old and New Testaments,

SLO 4.2 explain how deliverance is portrayed in the Old Testament and in the New Testament,

SLO 4.3: analyze the similarities between covenant and law in the Old Testament and the New Testament,

SLO 4.4 explain the concept of the new covenant in Christ as compared to the Old Testament covenant,

SLO 4.5 identify key messianic prophecies in the Old Testament,

SLO 4.6 demonstrate how these prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the New Testament,

SLO 4.7 compare worship practices in the Old Testament sacrificial system with Christ-centered worship in the New Testament, and

SLO 4.8: Evaluate the role of community life in both Testaments as expressions of God's saving plan.

4.1 Thematic Parallels in Salvation

4.1.1 Deliverance in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, salvation is often expressed through deliverance, which means God's act of rescuing His people from danger, oppression, or sin. A central example is the Exodus, where God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. This event became a defining moment of identity for Israel, showing that God is both powerful and faithful. Deliverance is also seen in the covenant promises, where God assures His people of protection and blessing if they remain faithful to Him. These themes highlight salvation as both physical rescue and spiritual assurance.





Figure 4.1 Deliverance in the Old Testament

Fill in the blank: The Exodus is the central example of God's _____ of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

4.1.2 Deliverance in the New Testament

In the New Testament, salvation is expressed through grace, defined as God's unmerited favour, and through faith, which means trusting in Christ's saving work. Deliverance here is not primarily from physical enemies but from sin and death. Jesus Christ's death and resurrection are presented as the ultimate act of deliverance, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe. This shows continuity with the Old Testament, as God remains faithful to His promises, but it also expands salvation to include all nations, not just Israel.

Box 4.1 Parallels in deliverance between the Old and New Testaments

Fill in the blank: In the New Testament, salvation is expressed through grace and _____ in Christ's saving work.

Pilot questions 4.1

- What does deliverance mean in the Old Testament?
- Give one example of deliverance in the Old Testament.
- How is deliverance expressed in the New Testament?
- What role do grace and faith play in New Testament salvation?
- How does New Testament deliverance expand beyond Israel?

4.2 Covenant and Law Across the Testaments

4.2.1 Old Testament covenant and law as guiding means

In the Old Testament, the covenant is a binding agreement initiated by God to establish His relationship with Israel. The covenant with Moses at Sinai is especially significant, as it provided Israel with the law, defined as God's



instructions for holy living and community order. The law served as a guiding means of salvation, not by earning redemption, but by shaping Israel's identity as God's chosen people. It emphasized obedience, justice, and worship, reminding Israel of its dependence on God's mercy.

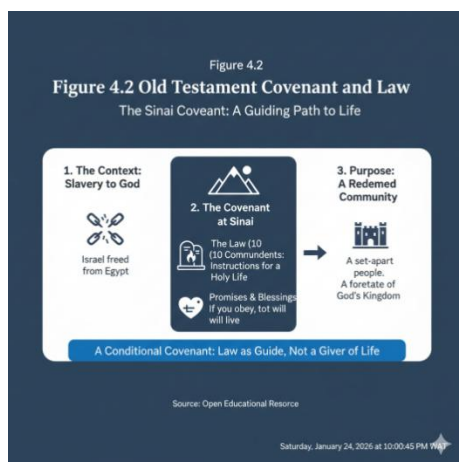


Figure 4.2 Old Testament covenant and law

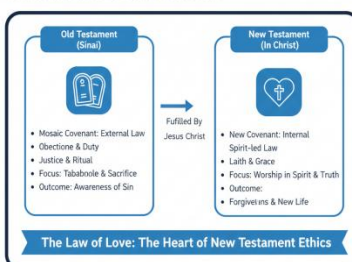
Fill in the blank: The covenant at _____ provided Israel with the law as a guiding means of salvation.

4.2.2 New Testament covenant in Christ and law of love

In the New Testament, salvation is expressed through the new covenant, inaugurated by Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. This covenant offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life, extending God's promises beyond Israel to all nations. The guiding principle of this covenant is the law of love, which means living in obedience to God by loving Him and others. Unlike the Old Testament law, which emphasized detailed regulations, the law of love focuses on inner transformation and the Spirit's guidance. This shows continuity with the Old Testament covenant but also highlights fulfillment and expansion in Christ.

Box 4.2 Comparison of Covenant and Law Across the Testaments

From Stone Tablets to Hearts Transformed



Source: Open Educational Resource

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Box 4.2 Comparison of covenant and law across the Testaments

Fill in the blank: The guiding principle of the new covenant is the law of _____.

Pilot questions 4.2

What is the meaning of covenant in the Old Testament?

How did the law serve as a guiding means of salvation for Israel?



What is the new covenant in the New Testament?

What does the law of love emphasize?

How does the New Testament covenant show both continuity and fulfillment of the Old Testament covenant?

4.3 Prophecy And fulfillment

4.3.1 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament

The Old Testament contains numerous messianic prophecies, which are predictions about the coming of an anointed one who would bring salvation. These prophecies are found in books such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah. For example, Isaiah speaks of a suffering servant who would bear the sins of many, while Micah foretells a ruler to come from Bethlehem. These promises gave Israel hope during times of hardship and pointed forward to God's ultimate plan of redemption.

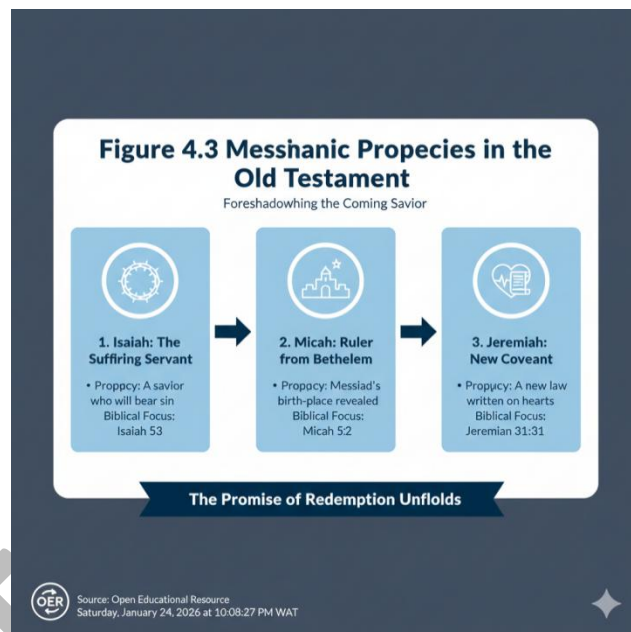


Figure 4.3 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament

Fill in the blank: Micah foretells a ruler to come from _____.

4.3.2 Fulfillment in Jesus Christ in the New Testament

In the New Testament, these messianic prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who is presented as the promised Messiah. His birth in Bethlehem, His ministry of teaching and healing, and His death and resurrection all correspond to Old Testament predictions. The Gospel writers often highlight these connections, showing that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises. This fulfillment demonstrates the continuity of salvation history and confirms that God's plan is reliable and purposeful.



Box 4.3 Examples of Prophecy and Fulfilment: From Promise to Person in Jesus Christ		
Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfilment in Christ	Significance
• Isaiah's Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53): A savior will bear the sins of many.	• Christ's Crucifixion (Matthew 27, Jesus suffers and for humanity's sin.	• Substitutionary Atonement
• Micah's Ruler from Bethlem (Micah 5:2):	• Jesus' Birth in Bethhlem (1 Peter 2:24):	• Messianic Confirmed
• Micah's Ruler from Bethlem (Messiad will 1 be born in in Bethhlem.	• Jesus' Birth in Bethhlem (Luke 2:47): Jesus born tow in to town of Bethhlem.	• Messianic Identity Confirmed
• Jeremiah's New Covant A new law written on the heart.	• Inauguration of the (Luke 22:20, Inauguration of the New Covant through His blood.	• Internal Transformation

Box 4.3 Examples of prophecy and fulfillment

Fill in the blank: The Gospel writers highlight connections to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's _____.

Pilot questions 4.3

What are messianic prophecies in the Old Testament?

Give one example of a messianic prophecy.

How are these prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament?

Why do the Gospel writers emphasize prophecy and fulfillment?

What does prophecy and fulfillment show about God's plan?

4.4 Worship and Community Life

4.4.1 Sacrificial system and temple worship in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, worship was centered on the sacrificial system, which refers to the offering of animals and other gifts to God as a means of atonement and thanksgiving. These sacrifices were carried out in the temple, the designated place of God's presence among His people. Worship involved rituals, festivals, and priestly mediation, all of which reinforced Israel's covenant relationship with God. The sacrificial system reminded the people of their dependence on God's mercy and their need for holiness in daily life.



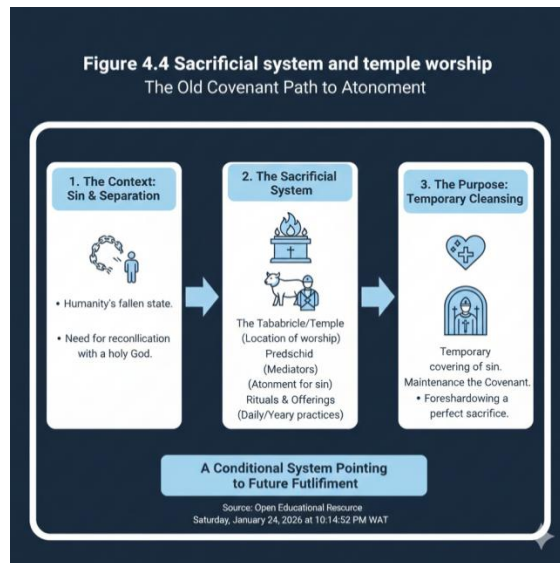


Figure 4.4 Sacrificial system and temple worship

Fill in the blank: Worship in the Old Testament was centered on the sacrificial system and the _____.

4.4.2 Christ-centered worship and church community in the New Testament

In the New Testament, worship shifts to being Christ-centered, meaning that Jesus' death and resurrection replace the need for repeated sacrifices. Believers gather as the church, defined as the community of those who follow Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Worship now focuses on prayer, teaching, fellowship, and the breaking of bread, reflecting the new covenant. The church community embodies God's presence in the world, living out the law of love and serving as witnesses to Christ's salvation. This continuity shows that while the form of worship has changed, the purpose of drawing near to God remains constant.



Box 4.4 Comparison of worship and community life across the Testaments

Fill in the blank: In the New Testament, worship is centered on _____ and expressed through the life of the church.

Pilot questions 4.4

What was the focus of worship in the Old Testament?



How did the sacrificial system reinforce Israel's covenant relationship with God?

What does Christ-centered worship mean in the New Testament?

How is the church defined in the New Testament?

What continuity exists between Old Testament and New Testament worship?

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the similarities between the Old and New Testaments, showing how both parts of Scripture share common themes and reinforce one another. Its purpose was to highlight the continuity of God's saving plan, helping learners to see the Bible as a unified whole rather than as two disconnected collections. By examining these parallels, the Series has demonstrated the relevance of salvation history for Christian theology and practice.

We began by exploring thematic parallels in salvation, looking at deliverance in the Old Testament and its counterpart in the New Testament. Then we considered covenant and law, comparing the guiding role of the Sinai covenant with the new covenant in Christ and the law of love. Following that, we studied prophecy and fulfillment, tracing messianic promises in the Old Testament and their realisation in Jesus. Finally, we examined worship and community life, contrasting temple-centred practices with Christ-centred worship and the life of the church. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe these parallels, explain their theological significance, analyse their continuity, and evaluate their role in shaping Christian faith and community.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Church: The community of believers in the New Testament who follow Christ, empowered by the **Holy Spirit, and gather for worship, teaching, fellowship, and service.**

Covenant: A binding agreement initiated by God to establish His relationship with His people. In the Old Testament, covenants such as those with Abraham and Moses defined Israel's identity, while the new covenant in Christ offers forgiveness and eternal life.

Deliverance: God's act of rescuing His people from danger, oppression, or sin. In the Old Testament this often-meant physical rescue, such as the Exodus, while in the New Testament it refers to salvation from sin and death through Christ.

Faith: Trusting in God's promises and, in the New Testament, specifically in Christ's saving work.

Grace: God's unmerited favor, expressed most fully in the New Testament through salvation offered in Jesus Christ.

Law: God's instructions for holy living and community order. In the Old Testament, the law was given at Sinai, while in the New Testament, it is fulfilled in the law of love.

Law of love: The guiding principle of the new covenant in Christ, emphasizing obedience to God through love for Him and others.

Messiah: A title meaning "anointed one," used in the Old Testament prophecies and fulfilled in Jesus Christ as the promised Savior.

Messianic prophecies: Predictions in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah, such as Isaiah's suffering servant or Micah's ruler from Bethlehem, fulfilled in Jesus Christ.



New covenant: The covenant inaugurated by Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection, offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all nations.

Prophecy: A message from God delivered through His prophets, often including promises of redemption and predictions of future events.

Sacrificial system: The Old Testament practice of offering animals and gifts to God in the temple as a means of atonement and thanksgiving.

Temple: The central place of worship in the Old Testament, where sacrifices were offered, and God's presence was symbolically located.

Worship: Acts of devotion and reverence towards God. In the Old Testament this centered on sacrifices and temple rituals, while in the New Testament, it is Christ-centered and expressed through prayer, fellowship, and the life of the church.

Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

Salvation in the Old Testament is often expressed through:

- a) Deliverance from physical enemies
- b) Philosophical reflection
- c) Political alliances
- d) Human achievement

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Which covenant provided Israel with the law at Sinai?

- a) Abrahamic covenant
- b) Mosaic covenant
- c) Davidic covenant
- d) new covenant

(Linked to SLO 4.3)

The guiding principle of the new covenant in Christ is:

- a) Law of rituals
- b) Law of love
- c) Law of sacrifice
- d) Law of tradition



(Linked to SLO 4.4)

Micah's prophecy foretold a ruler to come from:

- a) Jerusalem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Bethlehem
- d) Galilee

(Linked to SLO 4.5)

In the New Testament, worship is centered on:

- a) The temple sacrifices
- b) Christ and the church community
- c) The priestly system
- d) National festivals

(Linked to SLO 4.7)

Short-Answer Questions

Define deliverance as presented in the Old Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Explain how faith and grace express deliverance in the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.2)

Describe the role of the law in the Old Testament covenant.

(Linked to SLO 4.3)

What does the law of love emphasize in the new covenant?

(Linked to SLO 4.4)

Identify one messianic prophecy and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

(Linked to SLO 4.6)

Compare worship practices in the Old Testament with those in the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.7)

Long-Answer Questions



Analyze the thematic parallels in salvation between the Old and New Testaments.

(Linked to SLO 4.1, SLO 4.2)

Evaluate the continuity and differences between covenant and law in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.3, SLO 4.4)

Discuss the significance of prophecy and fulfillment in demonstrating the reliability of God's plan.

(Linked to SLO 4.5, SLO 4.6)

Assess the role of worship and community life in expressing God's saving plan across the Testaments.

(Linked to SLO 4.7, SLO 4.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- a) Deliverance from physical enemies
- b) Mosaic covenant
- b) Law of love
- c) Bethlehem
- b) Christ and the church community

Short-Answer Questions

Deliverance in the Old Testament refers to God's act of rescuing His people from danger or oppression, such as the Exodus.

Faith and grace express deliverance in the New Testament by showing trust in Christ's saving work and God's unmerited favour.

The law in the Old Testament covenant guided Israel's identity and behavior, emphasizing obedience, justice, and worship.

The law of love emphasizes obedience to God through love for Him and others.

Example: Micah's prophecy of a ruler from Bethlehem fulfilled in Jesus' birth.

Old Testament worship centered on sacrifices and temple rituals, while New Testament worship is Christ-centered and expressed through prayer, fellowship, and the church community.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: The Old Testament presents salvation through deliverance, while the New Testament presents salvation through faith and grace in Christ.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that these parallels show continuity in God's saving plan, with physical deliverance pointing forward to spiritual deliverance, and both emphasising God's faithfulness.



Basic response: The Old Testament covenant emphasized law and obedience, while the New Testament covenant emphasizes forgiveness and love.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that the continuity lies in God's consistent relationship with His people, while the difference lies in the shift from external regulations to inner transformation through the Spirit.

Basic response: Prophecy and fulfillment show that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, confirming God's plan.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that this demonstrates the reliability of Scripture, strengthens faith, and highlights the unity of the Testaments in salvation history.

Basic response: Worship in the Old Testament centered on sacrifices and the temple, while in the New Testament it is Christ-centered and expressed through the church community.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that both forms of worship express God's saving plan, with the New Testament showing fulfillment and expansion through Spirit-led practices and global community life.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 4.1

Deliverance in the Old Testament means God's act of rescuing His people from danger or oppression.

The Exodus is the central example of deliverance in the Old Testament.

Deliverance in the New Testament is expressed through grace and faith in Christ's saving work.

Grace and faith show God's unmerited favour and trust in Christ's death and resurrection.

New Testament deliverance expands salvation beyond Israel to include all nations.

Part 4.2

Covenant in the Old Testament is a binding agreement initiated by God to establish His relationship with His people.

The law served as a guiding means of salvation by shaping Israel's identity and behavior.

The new covenant in the New Testament is inaugurated by Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection.

The law of love emphasizes obedience to God through love for Him and others.

The New Testament covenant shows continuity with the Old Testament but also fulfillment and expansion in Christ.

Part 4.3

Messianic prophecies are predictions in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah.

Example: Micah's prophecy of a ruler from Bethlehem.

These prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

The Gospel writers emphasize prophecy and fulfillment to show Jesus is the promised Messiah.



Prophecy and fulfillment demonstrate the reliability and purposefulness of God's plan.

Part 4.4

Worship in the Old Testament focused on sacrifices and temple rituals.

The sacrificial system reinforced Israel's covenant relationship with God by reminding them of their dependence on His mercy.

Christ-centered worship in the New Testament means Jesus' death and resurrection replace repeated sacrifices.

The church in the New Testament is the community of believers who follow Christ and live Spirit-led lives.

Continuity exists in that both Testaments express drawing near to God, though the form of worship changes.

REFERENCES AND ATTRIBUTIONS

This section compiles all references and illustration attributions used or suggested in Series 4: Similarities in the Contents of the Old and New Testaments. Entries are presented in APA style for clarity and consistency.

General References

Holy Bible. (Various editions). Old Testament and New Testament texts referenced for salvation, covenant, prophecy, worship, and community life.

CRS 403 Course Document: Similarities in the Contents of the Old and New Testaments. University-approved course outline and instructional content.

Illustrations

Figure 4.1 Deliverance in the Old Testament

Description: Diagram showing deliverance in the Old Testament, with Exodus and the covenant as key examples.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing deliverance in the Old Testament, highlighting Exodus and covenant promises."

Search string: "Old Testament deliverance Exodus covenant salvation diagram OER."

Box 4.1 Parallels in deliverance between the Old and New Testaments

Description: Table comparing Old Testament deliverance (Exodus, covenant promises) with New Testament deliverance (Christ's death, grace, faith).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table comparing Old Testament deliverance (Exodus, covenant) with New Testament deliverance (Christ, grace, faith)."

Search string: "Old Testament New Testament deliverance salvation comparison table OER."



Figure 4.2 Old Testament covenant and law

Description: Diagram showing the covenant at Sinai with the law as a guiding means of salvation.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing the covenant at Sinai with the law as a guiding means of salvation."

Search string: "Old Testament covenant law Sinai diagram OER."

Box 4.2 Comparison of covenant and law across the Testaments

Description: Table comparing Old Testament covenant and law (Sinai, obedience, justice, worship) with New Testament covenant and law (Christ, forgiveness, love, Spirit-led living).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table comparing Old Testament covenant and law with New Testament covenant in Christ and law of love."

Search string: "Old Testament New Testament covenant law comparison table OER."

Figure 4.3 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament

Description: Diagram showing key messianic prophecies (Isaiah's suffering servant, Micah's ruler from Bethlehem, Jeremiah's new covenant).

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing key messianic prophecies in the Old Testament: Isaiah's servant, Micah's ruler, Jeremiah's new covenant."

Search string: "Messianic prophecies Old Testament diagram OER."

Box 4.3 Examples of prophecy and fulfillment

Description: Table listing examples of Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment (Isaiah's servant fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion, Micah's ruler fulfilled in Jesus' birth, Jeremiah's new covenant fulfilled in Christ's death and resurrection).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table listing examples of Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment in Jesus Christ."

Search string: "Prophecy fulfillment Old Testament New Testament Jesus table OER."

Figure 4.4 Sacrificial system and temple worship

Description: Diagram showing the sacrificial system and temple worship in the Old Testament.

Attribution: Placeholder illustration.

AI prompt: "Create a diagram showing the sacrificial system and temple worship in the Old Testament."

Search string: "Old Testament sacrificial system temple worship diagram OER."



Box 4.4 Comparison of worship and community life across the Testaments

Description: Table comparing Old Testament worship (sacrifices, temple, priestly mediation) with New Testament worship (Christ-centered, church community, Spirit-led practices).

Attribution: Placeholder table.

AI prompt: "Create a table comparing Old Testament worship and community life with New Testament worship and church community."

Search string: "Old Testament New Testament worship community comparison table OER."

COURSE TITLE: The Unity of the Old and New Testaments (Heilsgeschichte).

COURSE CODE: CRS 403:

COURSE UNITS: 3

Series 5: The Unity and Contemporary Relevance of the Old and New Testaments

Part 5.1: Unity of the Testaments in salvation history

5.1.1 Continuity of God's plan across both Testaments

5.1.2 Complementary roles of Old and New Testament writings

Part 5.2: Doctrinal coherence across the Testaments

5.2.1 Covenant and promise as unifying themes

5.2.2 Christ as the center of biblical unity

Part 5.3: Ethical and moral relevance today

5.3.1 Old Testament moral principles and their enduring value

5.3.2 New Testament ethics and contemporary application

Part 5.4: Contemporary mission and witness of the church

5.4.1 The church as a continuation of biblical unity

5.4.2 Applying biblical relevance in modern society

INTRODUCTION

In the last Series, we explored the similarities between the Old and New Testaments, noting how their themes and practices complement one another. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to the unity of the Testaments and their relevance for today. By recognizing the Bible as a coherent whole and applying its teachings to contemporary life, learners will see how Scripture continues to shape faith, ethics, and mission in the modern world.



This series aims to demonstrate the unity of the Old and New Testaments and to highlight their contemporary relevance for Christian belief, practice, and witness.

We shall commence this Series by examining the unity of the Testaments in salvation history, focusing on the continuity of God's plan and the complementary roles of both writings. Next, we will consider doctrinal coherence, looking at covenant and promise as unifying themes and Christ as the centre of biblical unity. Following that, we will explore ethical and moral relevance today, drawing from Old Testament principles and New Testament ethics for contemporary application. Finally, we will wrap up by studying the mission and witness of the church, showing how biblical unity and relevance continue to guide Christian engagement with society.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 5.1 explain the continuity of God's plan across the Old and New Testaments,
- SLO 5.2 analyze the complementary roles of Old and New Testament writings in salvation history,
- SLO 5.3 describe covenant and promise as unifying themes across the Testaments,
- SLO 5.4 evaluate the central role of Christ in demonstrating biblical unity,
- SLO 5.5 identify enduring moral principles from the Old Testament and their relevance today,
- SLO 5.6 apply New Testament ethical teachings to contemporary Christian living,
- SLO 5.7 explain how the church embodies the unity of the Testaments in its mission, and
- SLO 5.8 assess the relevance of biblical unity for Christian witness in modern society.

5.1 Unity of The Testaments in Salvation History

5.1.1 Continuity of God's plan across both Testaments

The Bible presents salvation history, defined as the unfolding of God's plan to redeem humanity across time. In the Old Testament, this plan is revealed through covenants, promises, and acts of deliverance such as the Exodus. In the New Testament, the same plan reaches its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who embodies God's promises and extends salvation to all nations. This continuity shows that the Testaments are not separate stories but parts of one divine narrative.

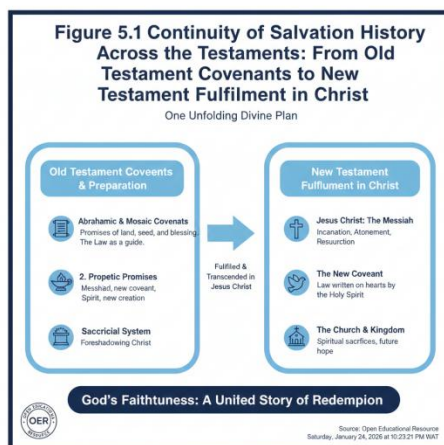
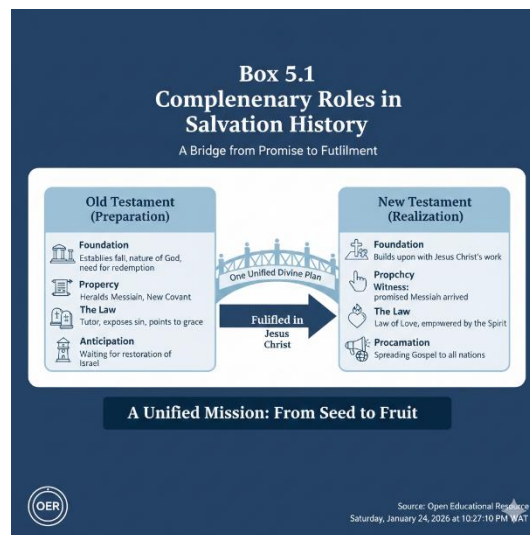


Figure 5.1 Continuity of salvation history across the Testaments

Fill in the blank: Salvation history refers to the unfolding of God's _____ to redeem humanity across time.

5.1.2 Complementary roles of Old and New Testament writings

The Old Testament provides the foundation of salvation history, offering prophecy, defined as God's message delivered through His chosen messengers, and law, which are instructions for holy living. These writings prepare the way for the New Testament, which records the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and the mission of the early church. Together, the Testaments complement one another: the Old Testament anticipates, while the New Testament fulfils. This unity strengthens the reliability of Scripture and demonstrates that God's plan is consistent and purposeful.



Box 5.1 Complementary roles of Old and New Testament writings

Fill in the blank: The Old Testament anticipates, while the New Testament _____ God's plan of salvation.

Pilot questions 5.1

What is meant by salvation history?

How does the Old Testament reveal God's plan of salvation?

In what way does the New Testament fulfil the promises of the Old Testament?

What role do prophecy and law play in the Old Testament?

How do the Old and New Testaments complement one another in salvation history?

5.2 Doctrinal Coherence Across the Testaments

5.2.1 Covenant and promise as unifying themes

One of the strongest threads linking the Old and New Testaments is the theme of covenant, defined as God's binding agreement with His people, and promise, which refers to God's assurance of future blessing and fulfillment. In the Old Testament, covenants with figures such as Abraham and Moses established Israel's identity and relationship with God. These covenants carried promises of land, blessing, and a future hope. In the New Testament, these promises find their fulfillment in Christ, who inaugurates the new covenant through His death and resurrection. This



shows that covenant and promise are not isolated concepts but unifying themes that run consistently across the Testaments.

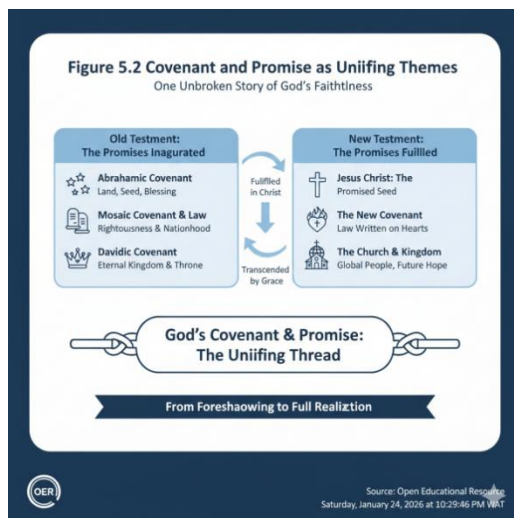
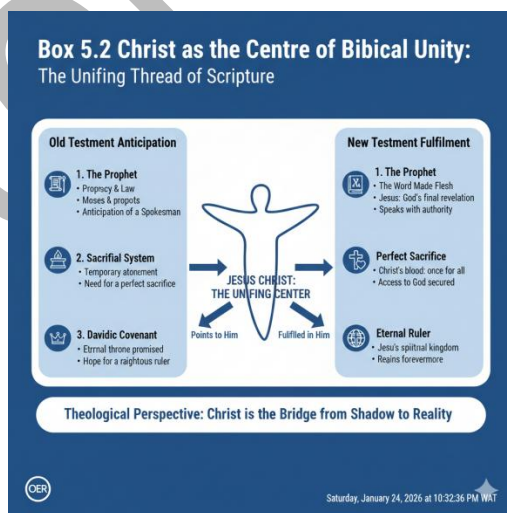


Figure 5.2 Covenant and promise as unifying themes

Fill in the blank: In the New Testament, God's promises find their fulfillment in _____.

5.2.2 Christ as the centre of biblical unity

The ultimate expression of doctrinal coherence is found in Christ, who is the centre of biblical unity. The Old Testament points forward to Him through prophecy, law, and covenant, while the New Testament reveals Him as the fulfillment of these expectations. Christ unites the Testaments by embodying God's promises and by reconciling humanity to God. This centrality of Christ demonstrates that the Bible is not a collection of disconnected writings but a unified testimony to God's saving work.



Box 5.2 Christ as the centre of biblical unity

Fill in the blank: The Old Testament points forward to Christ, while the New Testament reveals Him as the _____.

Pilot questions 5.2



What is meant by covenant and promise as unifying themes?

How did the Old Testament covenants shape Israel's identity?

In what way are God's promises fulfilled in the New Testament?

Why is Christ considered the centre of biblical unity?

How do the Old and New Testaments together testify to God's saving work?

5.3 Ethical and Moral Relevance Today

5.3.1 Old Testament moral principles and their enduring value

The Old Testament contains moral principles, defined as God-given standards for right living and justice. These include commandments such as honesty, respect for life, care for the poor, and faithfulness in worship. While some laws were specific to Israel's cultural context, many principles remain timeless because they reflect God's character and expectations for humanity. For example, the Ten Commandments continue to shape ethical thought and practice across cultures. These enduring values remind us that the Old Testament is not outdated but provides a foundation for moral living today.

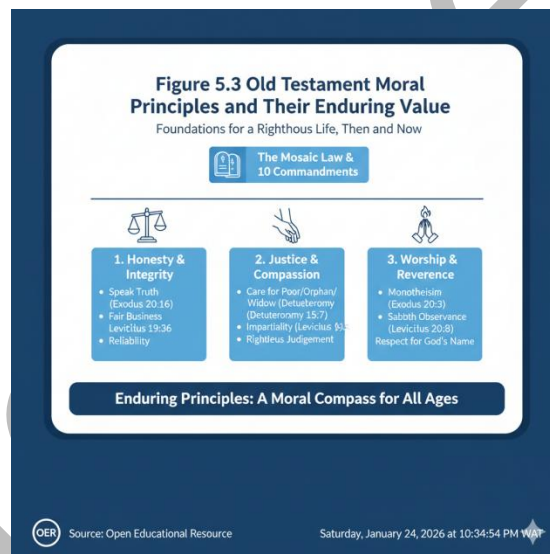


Figure 5.3 Old Testament moral principles and their enduring value

Fill in the blank: The Ten _____ continue to shape ethical thought and practice across cultures.

5.3.2 New Testament ethics and contemporary application

The New Testament builds on Old Testament principles and introduces ethics, defined as the practice of moral living guided by Christ's teachings and the Holy Spirit. Jesus summarized the law in the command to love God and love others, which is known as the law of love. The apostles further applied these teachings to everyday life, encouraging believers to live with humility, generosity, and integrity. In contemporary society, New Testament ethics challenge Christians to apply biblical values in areas such as family, work, justice, and social responsibility. This shows that Scripture is not only historical but also practical for guiding modern life.





Box 5.3 New Testament ethics and contemporary application

Fill in the blank: Jesus summarized the law in the command to love _____ and love others.

Pilot questions 5.3

What are moral principles in the Old Testament?

Give one example of an enduring Old Testament moral principle.

How does the New Testament define ethics?

What is the law of love according to Jesus?

How can New Testament ethics be applied in contemporary society?

5.4 Contemporary Mission and Witness of The Church

5.4.1 The church as a continuation of biblical unity

The church, defined as the community of believers who follow Christ and live by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, represents the continuation of biblical unity. Just as Israel was called to embody God's covenant in the Old Testament, the church is now called to embody the new covenant in Christ. This means living out the law of love, bearing witness to salvation, and serving as a visible sign of God's presence in the world. The church demonstrates that the unity of the Testaments is not only theological but also practical, expressed through the life of a Spirit-led community.





Figure 5.4 The church as a continuation of biblical unity

Fill in the blank: The church represents the continuation of biblical _____ in the world today.

5.4.2 Applying biblical relevance in modern society

The unity of the Testaments is not only historical but also relevant, meaning it has practical significance for contemporary life. Christians are called to apply biblical teachings in areas such as justice, family, work, and social responsibility. The Old Testament provides enduring moral principles, while the New Testament offers Spirit-led guidance through Christ's example and apostolic teaching. Together, they equip the church to engage with modern challenges, from ethical dilemmas to social transformation. This shows that the Bible is not confined to the past but continues to shape mission and witness in the present.

Box 5.4
Applying Biblical Relevance in Modern Society: From Principles to Application
Timeless Values for Contemporary Life

Theme	Old Testament Principle	New Testament Application	Modern Contextual Relevance
Justice	Prophetic Mandate: Defending the poor (Proverbs 31:8-9)	Active Compassion: Serving 'the least of these' (Matthew 25:40)	Advocacy for vulnerable, fair fair wages
Family	Covenant Bonds Moral instruction (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)	Mutual Submission: Love and respect (Ephesians 5:21-33)	Healthy parenting, stable relationships
Work	Honest Scales Integrity in business (Leviticus 19:35-36)	Excellence for God: Working heartily (Colo 3:23-24)	Radical Sharing Meeting needs (Acts 2:44-45)
Community	Social Safety Nets Gleaning for poor relationships	Professional ethics, workplace integrity	Community charity, social responsibility

A Living Ethical Framework: The Timeless Heart of God

Source: Open Educational Resource
Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 10:42:45 PM WAT

Box 5.4 Applying biblical relevance in modern society

Fill in the blank: Christians are called to apply biblical teachings in areas such as justice, _____, work, and social responsibility.

Pilot questions 5.4

What is the role of the church in continuing biblical unity?



How does the church embody the new covenant in Christ?

What does biblical relevance mean in modern society?

Give one example of how Old Testament principles and New Testament guidance apply today.

How does the unity of the Testaments shape the mission and witness of the church?

Series Summary

This Series has highlighted the unity of the Old and New Testaments and their continuing relevance for Christian life today. Its purpose was to show that the Bible is not a collection of disconnected writings but a coherent testimony to God's saving plan, which remains significant for faith, ethics, and mission in the modern world.

We began by examining the unity of salvation history, noting the continuity of God's plan and the complementary roles of both Testaments. Then we considered doctrinal coherence, focusing on covenant and promise as unifying themes and Christ as the center of biblical unity. Following that, we explored ethical and moral relevance, identifying enduring Old Testament principles and applying New Testament ethics to contemporary life. Finally, we studied the mission and witness of the church, showing how biblical unity guides Christian engagement with society. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to explain continuity in salvation history, analyse doctrinal coherence, apply ethical teachings to modern contexts, and assess the relevance of biblical unity for the mission of the church today.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Church: The community of believers who follow Christ and live by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament, the church embodies the new covenant and serves as a witness to God's saving plan.

Covenant: A binding agreement initiated by God to establish His relationship with His people. In the Old Testament, covenants shaped Israel's identity, while in the New Testament, Christ inaugurated the new covenant through His death and resurrection.

Ethics: The practice of moral living guided by Christ's teachings and the Holy Spirit. New Testament ethics emphasize love, humility, generosity, and integrity in everyday life.

Law: God's instructions for holy living and community order. In the Old Testament, the law was given at Sinai, while in the New Testament it is fulfilled in the law of love.

Law of love: The guiding principle of the new covenant in Christ, summarized by Jesus as loving God and loving others.

Mission: The calling of the church to continue God's saving plan by proclaiming Christ, serving others, and engaging with society.

Moral principles: God-given standards for right living and justice, such as honesty, respect for life, care for the poor, and faithfulness in worship.

Promise: God's assurance of future blessing and fulfillment. Old Testament promises pointed to hope and restoration, while the New Testament shows their fulfillment in Christ.

Prophecy: A message from God delivered through His chosen messengers, often pointing forward to Christ and the fulfillment of God's plan.

Relevance: The practical significance of biblical teachings for contemporary life, showing how Scripture continues to guide faith, ethics, and mission today.



Salvation history: The unfolding of God's plan to redeem humanity across time, beginning with Old Testament covenants and reaching fulfillment in Christ in the New Testament.

Unity: The coherence and consistency of the Old and New Testaments as parts of one divine narrative, centered on God's saving work in Christ.

CONCEPT CHECK QUESTIONS

Objective Questions

Salvation in the Old Testament is often expressed through:

- a) Deliverance from physical enemies
- b) Philosophical reflection
- c) Political alliances
- d) Human achievement

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Which covenant provided Israel with the law at Sinai?

- a) Abrahamic covenant
- b) Mosaic covenant
- c) Davidic covenant
- d) new covenant

(Linked to SLO 4.3)

The guiding principle of the new covenant in Christ is:

- a) Law of rituals
- b) Law of love
- c) Law of sacrifice
- d) Law of tradition

(Linked to SLO 4.4)

Micah's prophecy foretold a ruler to come from:



- a) Jerusalem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Bethlehem
- d) Galilee

(Linked to SLO 4.5)

In the New Testament, worship is centered on:

- a) The temple sacrifices
- b) Christ and the church community
- c) The priestly system
- d) National festivals

(Linked to SLO 4.7)

Short-Answer Questions

Define deliverance as presented in the Old Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.1)

Explain how faith and grace express deliverance in the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.2)

Describe the role of the law in the Old Testament covenant.

(Linked to SLO 4.3)

What does the law of love emphasize in the new covenant?

(Linked to SLO 4.4)

Identify one messianic prophecy and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

(Linked to SLO 4.6)

Compare worship practices in the Old Testament with those in the New Testament.

(Linked to SLO 4.7)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyze the thematic parallels in salvation between the Old and New Testaments.

(Linked to SLO 4.1, SLO 4.2)

Evaluate the continuity and differences between covenant and law in the Old Testament and the New Testament.



(Linked to SLO 4.3, SLO 4.4)

Discuss the significance of prophecy and fulfillment in demonstrating the reliability of God's plan.

(Linked to SLO 4.5, SLO 4.6)

Assess the role of worship and community life in expressing God's saving plan across the Testaments.

(Linked to SLO 4.7, SLO 4.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- a) Deliverance from physical enemies
- b) Mosaic covenant
- b) Law of love
- c) Bethlehem
- b) Christ and the church community

Short-Answer Questions

Deliverance in the Old Testament refers to God's act of rescuing His people from danger or oppression, such as the Exodus.

Faith and grace express deliverance in the New Testament by showing trust in Christ's saving work and God's unmerited favour.

The law in the Old Testament covenant guided Israel's identity and behaviour, emphasising obedience, justice, and worship.

The law of love emphasizes obedience to God through love for Him and others.

Example: Micah's prophecy of a ruler from Bethlehem fulfilled in Jesus' birth.

Old Testament worship centred on sacrifices and temple rituals, while New Testament worship is Christ-centred and expressed through prayer, fellowship, and the church community.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: The Old Testament presents salvation through deliverance, while the New Testament presents salvation through faith and grace in Christ.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that these parallels show continuity in God's saving plan, with physical deliverance pointing forward to spiritual deliverance, and both emphasizing God's faithfulness.

Basic response: The Old Testament covenant emphasized law and obedience, while the New Testament covenant emphasizes forgiveness and love.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that the continuity lies in God's consistent relationship with His people, while the difference lies in the shift from external regulations to inner transformation through the Spirit.

Basic response: Prophecy and fulfillment show that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, confirming God's plan.



Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that this demonstrates the reliability of Scripture, strengthens faith, and highlights the unity of the Testaments in salvation history.

Basic response: Worship in the Old Testament centered on sacrifices and the temple, while in the New Testament it is Christ-centered and expressed through the church community.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may expand by noting that both forms of worship express God's saving plan, with the New Testament showing fulfillment and expansion through Spirit-led practices and global community life.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 5.1

Salvation history is the unfolding of God's plan to redeem humanity across time.

The Old Testament reveals God's plan of salvation through covenants, promises, and acts of deliverance such as the Exodus.

The New Testament fulfils the promises of the Old Testament in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Prophecy and law in the Old Testament prepared the way for Christ by guiding Israel and pointing forward to future fulfillment.

The Old Testament anticipates God's plan, while the New Testament fulfils it, showing their complementary roles.

Part 5.2

Covenant and promise are unifying themes because they consistently express God's relationship and assurance across both Testaments.

Old Testament covenants shaped Israel's identity by establishing them as God's chosen people with specific responsibilities.

God's promises are fulfilled in the New Testament through Christ, who inaugurates the new covenant.

Christ is considered the center of biblical unity because He embodies and fulfils the law, covenant, and prophecy.

Together, the Old and New Testaments testify to God's saving work by anticipating and revealing Christ.

Part 5.3

Moral principles in the Old Testament are God-given standards for right living and justice.

An example of an enduring Old Testament moral principle is honesty, expressed in the commandment against bearing false witness.

The New Testament defines ethics as moral living guided by Christ's teachings and the Holy Spirit.

The law of love is Jesus' command to love God and love others.

New Testament ethics can be applied in contemporary society through humility, generosity, integrity, and social responsibility.



Part 5.4

The role of the church in continuing biblical unity is to embody the new covenant and live out God's saving plan.

The church embodies the new covenant in Christ by practicing the law of love and serving as a Spirit-led community.

Biblical relevance in modern society means applying Scripture's teachings to contemporary life and challenges.

An example is applying Old Testament principles of justice alongside New Testament guidance on love and humility in social issues.

The unity of the Testaments shapes the mission and witness of the church by providing a consistent foundation for faith and engagement with society.

