

2 Samuel 7:13, 14, "He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men..."

Psalms 2:7-8, "I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage..."

2 Kings 1:8, "... He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist... It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Malachi 4:5, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord..."

Genesis 1:2, "... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Genesis 22:2, "Abraham... Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love..."

Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say...'"

Numbers 14:27, 32-33, "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me?... your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years..."

Mark 1:1-15

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" →

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Malachi 3:1-5, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple... But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire... Then I will draw near to you for judgement..."

Isaiah 40:3,9,10,11, "A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God... Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news... Behold your God comes with might... He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms..."

The Old Testament in Mark's Gospel

Discuss while waiting to begin:

1. Why is the Old Testament important?
2. What do we lack if we DON'T read and understand the Old Testament?

What to look out for...

Significant OT background without which we'll miss something important

E.g. a promise being fulfilled... or a common scripture pattern being repeated

➔ **Quotations from the Old Testament**

More obvious... sometimes in "speech marks"

➔ **Allusions or hints to Old Testament passages**

Less obvious... maybe a significant phrase or word or idea...

**... So: Look up the OT passage... read section from which the quote/hint comes...
and then ask: WHY does the NT quote or allude to this passage?**

Some examples

Read Mark 1:1-15 (see over the page)

Read Mark 5:24-32

- What is the significance of this miracle?
- Now read Leviticus 15:25,31.
- How do we better understand Jesus' power and compassion towards this woman?

Read Mark 11:15-19

- What do you think made Jesus so angry?
- Now read Jeremiah 7:8-11 (which Jesus quotes).
- With this passage in mind, how do we better understand the purpose of the temple, and the sin of the people Jesus drove out from it?

Encouragements:

1. Get to know the Old Testament better!

Not just isolated stories... but the story and flow of the *whole* OT

2. Grow your understanding of the Bible's systematic theology

So you can spot those Big Bible Themes when they appear in a particular passage.