

THE TRUTH ABOUT PROPHECY

Series: The Truth about Prophecy

Text: Assorted Texts

Title: How To Interpret Prophecy,
Part 2

Date: September 20, 2026

Lesson: 2

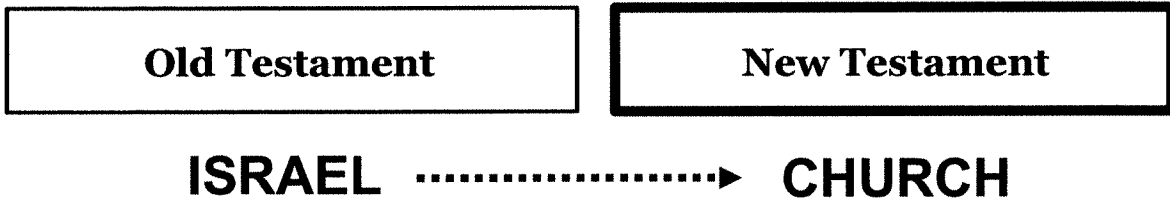
Covenantalism / Dispensationalism

Literal-Grammatical-Historical method

Eight principles of dispensational hermeneutics:

- 1. Our task is to discover what the original author meant, rather than imposing our own beliefs onto the text.**
- 2. Interpretation should proceed_____ from the OT, rather than backward from the NT.**

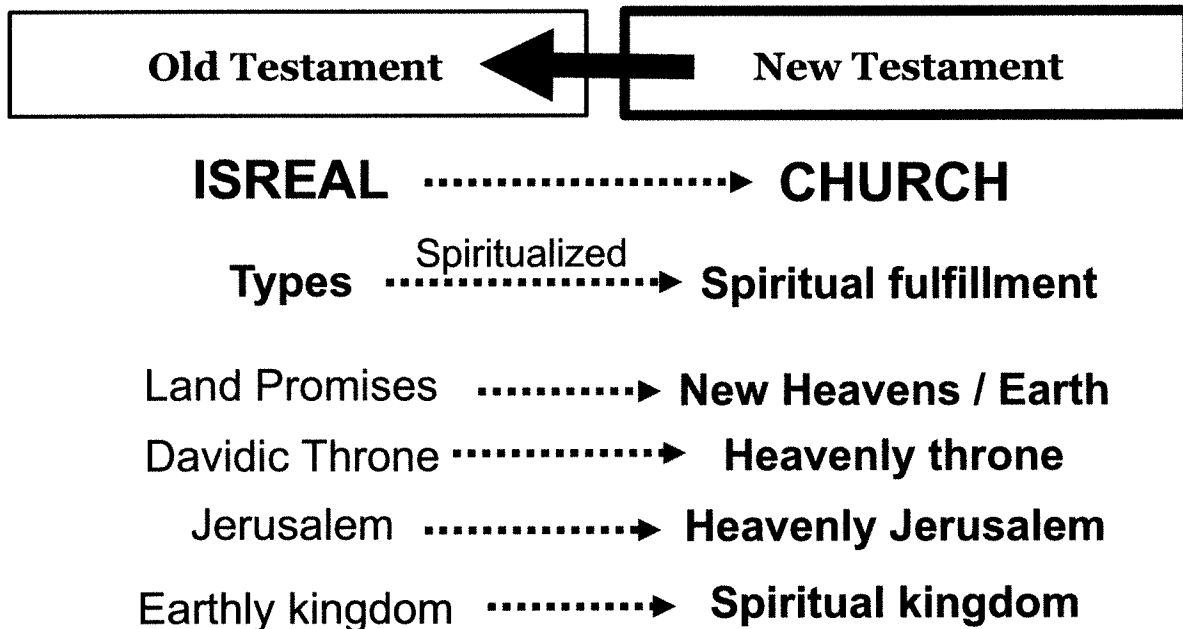
Covenantalism



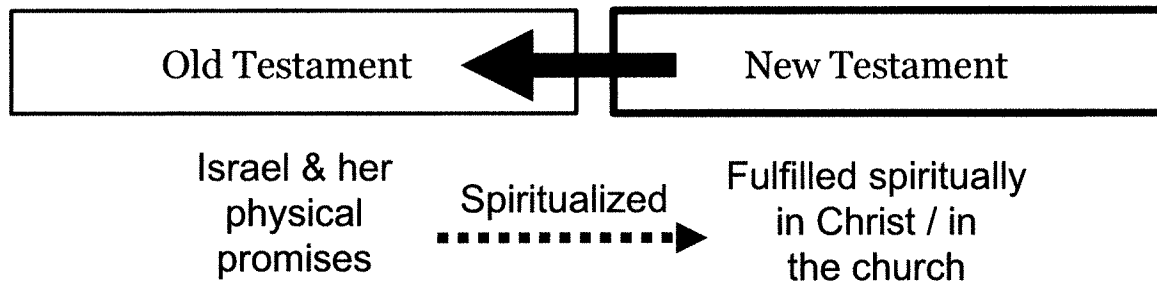
Stephen Wellum

“Jesus and the new covenant becomes the hermeneutical sense by which we interpret the fulfillment of the types and patters:

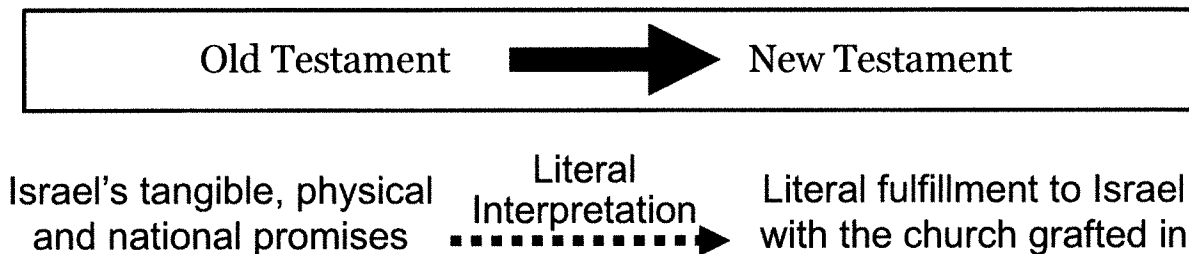
Covenantalism



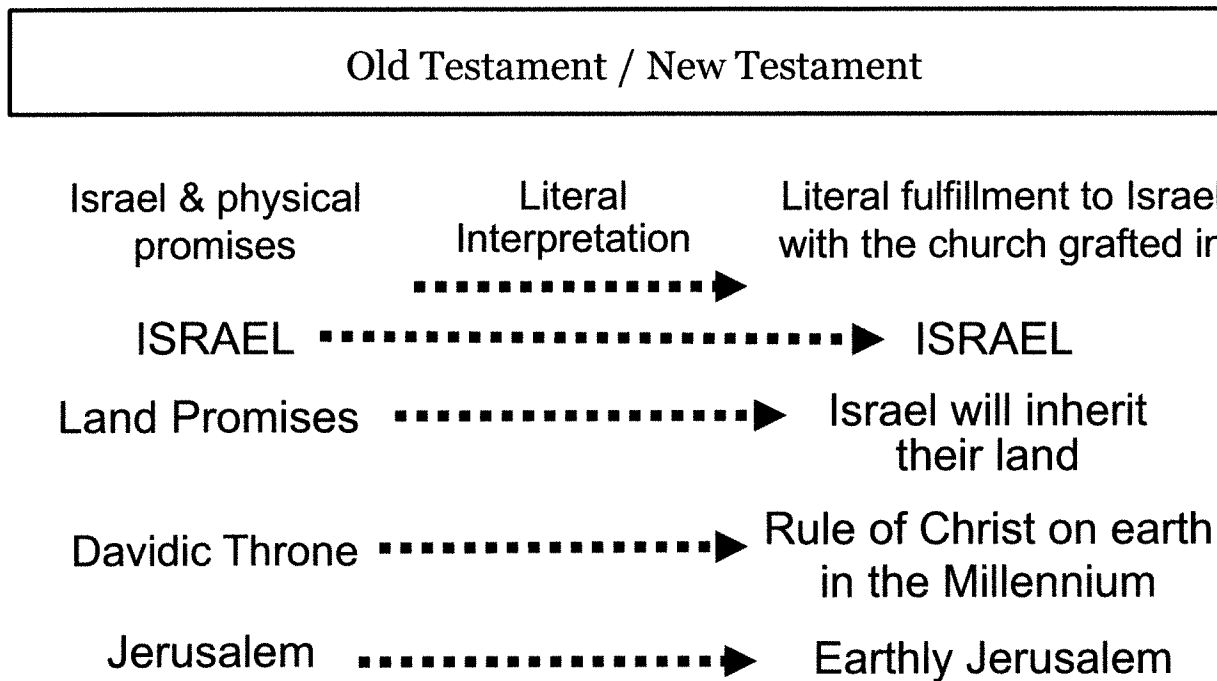
Covenantalism



Dispensationalism



Dispensationalism



Promise	Dispensationalism	Covenantalism
Nation	Israel remains a distinct nation in God's future program with Gentiles grafted in	Israel's promises find fulfillment in Christ and the multinational people
Land	Israel receives the promised land	Land points to the greater inheritance of the renewed creation
Material	Israel experiences promised tangible, physical blessings	Blessings expand to all God's people and ultimately to creation
Kingdom	Future 1,000 yr earthly Millennial kingdom	Christ's kingdom is inaugurated now and consummated in the new creation
Society	Christ rules earthly nations in the Millennial kingdom	Redeemed humanity lives under Christ's rule in the new creation

3. The progression of revelation does not reinterpret the meaning of earlier prophecies; it _____ on what the prophets already revealed.

Introductory Formulas

Frequency of introductory formulas in the New Testament:

“it is written” - **53 times**

“As it is written” - **30 times**

“The Scripture says” and “What does the Scripture say?” - **2 times**

“The Scripture had to be fulfilled” - **3 times**

“Have you not read?” / “Have you never read?” - **10 times**

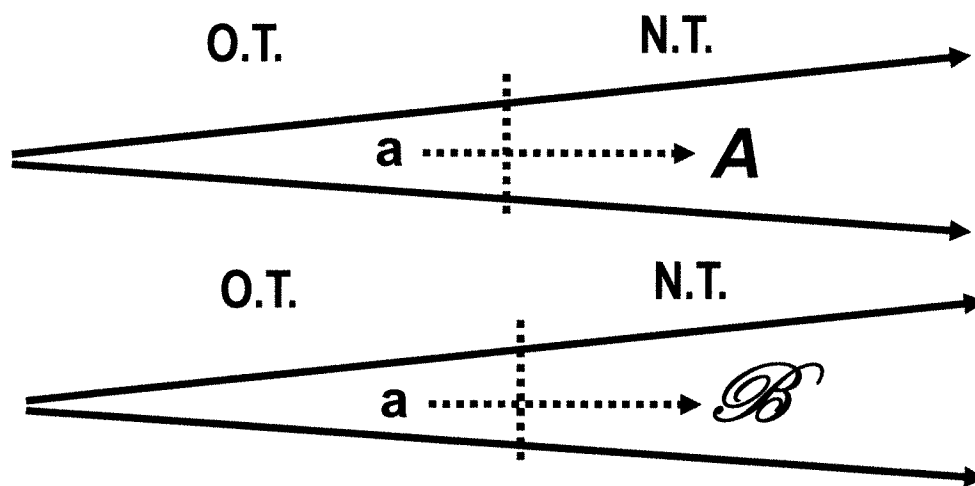
“That it might be fulfilled” / “This was to fulfill” - **31 times**

“It was spoken by or through the prophet” - **13 times**

“What God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets” - **2 times**

“Moses wrote” / “Moses said” - **7 times**

“David said” / “David says” - **7 times**



4. The overarching theme of the Bible is not individual salvation, but an earthly, physical, tangible _____.

“kingdom” Old / New Testaments - 377 times

New Testament - 163 times

“kingdom of God / kingdom of heaven - 98 times

Revelation 22:5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and **they will reign forever and ever.**

Genesis 15:18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this **land**, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

2 Samuel 7:12–13 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Zechariah 14:4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

9 And the Lord will be king over all the **earth**; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

Acts 1:3–6 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning **the kingdom of God**. 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, **“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”**

5. Along with salvation, the tangible, material, and national promises contained in the _____ will be fulfilled.

Noahic Covenant - shows the inherent value of the earth and all creatures

Abrahamic Covenant - Land, agricultural prosperity, peace for Israel from her enemies

Davidic Covenant - includes Israel’s national identity, her land, agricultural prosperity, and national deliverance from her enemies

New Covenant - Inward transformation / physical blessings

Jeremiah 31:31–33 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a **new covenant** with the **house of Israel** and with the **house of Judah**, 32 not like the covenant 33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31:31–34 - New hearts and forgiveness:

Jeremiah 31:4–14 - Return, vineyards, harvest, and flocks:

Jeremiah 31:23–28, 38–40 - Rebuilding of Judah and a permanent Jerusalem:

Jeremiah 32:15, 37– 44 - Fields, homes, safety, and permanent planting in the land:

Jeremiah 33:6–13 - Healing, restored cities, houses, worship, pastures, and flocks:

6. _____ false prophets requires a literal fulfillment of their predictions.

Deuteronomy 18:20–22 ‘But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ 21 “You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ 22 “When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

7. There is an _____ component to promises.

A. The character of the promise maker.

B. The truthfulness of the promise itself.

C. The faith and trust of the one receiving the promise.

**8. OT prophecies that have fully come to pass were fulfilled
_____ according to their
intended meaning.**

A. The prophecy of the Flood

Genesis 6:17 → Genesis 7:17–24

B. Abraham and Sarah having a son

Genesis 17:16, 19 → Genesis 21:1–3

C. Israel's descent into Egypt and later return

Genesis 15:13–16 → Exodus 12:31–42

D. Israel's wilderness wandering

Numbers 14:28–35; Deuteronomy 2:14

E. Israel's conquest of Canaan

Genesis 12:7; 15:18–21; Joshua 21:43–45

F Jericho's destruction

Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34

G. The prophecy concerning King Josiah

1 Kings 13:2; 2 Kings 23:15–16

H. Elijah's prophecy concerning Ahab

1 Kings 21:19; 1 Kings 22:37–38

I. Elijah's prophecy concerning Jezebel

1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:30–37

J. The fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 25:8–11; 2 Kings 24–25

The OT prophecies that predicted our Lord's life and ministry:

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

Mic. 5:2 — Matt. 2:1–6

The Messiah will enter Jerusalem on a donkey

Zech. 9:9 — Matt. 21:4–9

The Messiah will be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver

Zech. 11:12–13 — Matt. 26:14–16; 27:3–10

The Messiah will be pierced

Zech. 12:10 — John 19:34–37

The Messiah's garments will be divided by lot

Ps. 22:18 — John 19:23–24

The Messiah will rise from the dead

Ps. 16:10 — Acts 2:25–32; 13:35–37

How God fulfilled past prophecies provides the

_____ **for interpreting future prophecy.**

Discussion Guide

1. How does holding firmly to "authorial intent" protect Scripture from becoming a "blank canvas" for modern agendas?
2. The sermon contrasts starting in the Old Testament and moving forward with starting in the New Testament and working backward. How does your choice of "starting point" fundamentally change how you interpret physical or national promises made to Israel?
3. When examining covenants like the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants, how do we balance the spiritual blessings of salvation with the tangible, material, and national elements described in texts like Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel?
4. The past literal fulfillments (such as Christ's birthplace, crucifixion details, or historical predictions) set the standard for how we should expect unfulfilled prophecies to happen. In what ways does looking at past literal fulfillments strengthen your confidence regarding future prophecy?

ANSWERS: forward, builds, kingdom, covenants, Judging, ethical, literally, standard