

2) Introduction to the Old Testament in Pauline Theology

1. The Relationship Between Paul and the Old Testament

- 1) Paul grew up deeply rooted in the Old Testament (the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms). (Philippians 3:5–6)
- 2) For Paul, the Old Testament held divine authority and was essential for understanding the gospel.
- 3) However, Paul reinterpreted the Old Testament Christocentrically— that is, centered on Christ.

2. Functions of the Old Testament in Pauline Theology

1) The Role of the Law

- (1) The Law reveals human sin. (Romans 3:20; 7:7)
- (2) The Law cannot justify but serves to make sin known. (Galatians 3:19–24)
- (3) The Law functioned as a "tutor" leading to Christ.

2) The Role of Promise

- (1) The promise given to Abraham preceded the Law and is fulfilled in Christ. (Galatians 3:16–18)
- (2) The Old Testament covenants (especially the Abrahamic covenant) are realized through Jesus Christ.

3) Typology of Christ

- (1) Figures, events, and institutions in the Old Testament foreshadow Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:1–11)
- (2) For example, the Exodus typifies salvation, and the priesthood anticipates Christ's mediatory role.

4) Eschatological Interpretation

- (1) Prophecies in the Old Testament are fulfilled eschatologically in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- (2) Paul viewed Old Testament prophecy as part of the "already but not yet" fulfillment in Christ.

3. Paul's Use and Interpretation of the Old Testament

1) Paul employed both literal and spiritual interpretations of the Old Testament.

(1) Examples:

Abraham's faith: Genesis 15:6 → Romans 4

Deuteronomy 21:23 ("Cursed is anyone hung on a tree") →

Galatians 3:13

Psalms 110 ("You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek")

Referenced in Hebrews (authorship uncertain but closely aligned with Pauline thought)

4. Summary of the Old Testament's Role in Pauline Theology

<u>Category</u>	<u>Content</u>
Foundation of Revelation	The Old Testament initiates God's redemptive history.
Function of the Law	Through the Law, humans become aware of sin and the need for salvation.
Promise and Fulfillment	The promise to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ.
Typology and Shadows	Old Testament institutions and events foreshadow Christ's reality.
Eschatological Perspective	Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Christ's first and second coming.

Summary

- 1) For Paul, the Old Testament was not a completed revelation in itself, but rather a book that must be fulfilled and interpreted through Christ.
 - 2) Paul acknowledged the Old Testament as the "old covenant," but taught that it served as a transition leading to the new covenant realized in Jesus Christ.
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