

Exodus 17 / 1 Corinthians 10:1-22 Seeing Christ in the OT



As ever, there are two opposing errors to avoid here. You can read the OT as if it is only the historical background to the NT, and therefore has little to say to us in our understanding of faith in Jesus today. Or you can see analogies and allusions to Christ all over the place, such that apparently plain NT stuff gets bogged down with all kinds of mystical baggage we are supposed to somehow divine from the OT.

At least in Exodus 17 we have an absolute statement in the NT, saying that there is a definite connection: 1 Corinthians 10:4 says that “the rock was Christ”. But ... what does this actually mean for us? And how can we make sure that we get from the OT precisely what God wants us to understand for today?

Can you work out the flow of the argument through 1 Corinthians 10:1-22?

What OT accounts is Paul drawing on?

What NT problem is Paul addressing?

And what should “the rock is Christ” mean to us?

What other ways does the OT point to Jesus?

Are these all equally clear?

Are there some OT passages that are only *maybes*?

What do you make of the idea that “if you cannot see Christ *in* all, you cannot see him *at* all”?

Consider the life of Joseph (Genesis). In what ways might Joseph be “a type of Christ” (note the technical use of the word *type* there)? Compare, for example, Genesis 50:20 with the death of Jesus. Can the similarities be just coincidental?