



The Rock, The Lion, The Groom February 23, 2020

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27

This is our last study of portraits of Christ from the Old Testament. This week, we're going to look at three portraits of Christ and see how they are pictures of Christ's role in the future, each bringing hope for His people.

The Rock

In the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonian empire, was desperate to discover the meaning of a troubling dream, but no one could come up with an explanation. So Daniel went to God, who revealed to him not only the dream, but also its secret meaning. The dream, Daniel told the king, foretold the rise and fall of the kingdoms to come after Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom came to an end.

Read Daniel 2:34–35.

The dream revealed that God would set up another kingdom of a completely different kind—a kingdom that will last forever.

Read Daniel 2:44–45.

The stone is the representative of *the God of heaven* who is going to set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed but will *break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end...* This refers to Christ at the end of the age.

[Q] How did Jesus allude to this kingdom in Matthew 21:43–45?

[Q] Read the following verses and discuss what hope they bring for those who belong to the eternal kingdom.

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (NIV)

"This kingdom reign of Jesus dawned decisively in his first coming (Mark 1:15), and his full and uncontested reign will be perfectly completed at his second coming (Rev. 20:6). Faith in Christ's ultimate rule over matters present and future is the basis for our abiding peace and unshakable hope amid present trials."

— Note on Daniel 2 from the *ESV Gospel Transformation Bible*

The Lion

At the end of the book of Genesis, Jacob and his sons and their families all settled in Egypt. As he neared death, Jacob gathered his boys together and gave each his blessing.

[Q] Read Jacob's blessing on his son Judah in Genesis 49:8–11. Where do you see Jesus prophesied in this passage?

[Q] Read Revelation 5:5. How does the picture of Jesus as the Lion of Judah strengthen your hope?

The most magnificent thing about the Lion of the tribe of Judah in his fulfillment of Jacob's prophecy is that he lays claim on the obedience of all the peoples of the world not by exploiting our guilt and crushing us with it into submission, but by bearing our guilt and freeing us to love him and praise him and obey with joy forever. The Lion of Judah is the Lamb who was slain.
— Pastor John Piper

The Bridegroom

"God's covenant relationship as a husband to His (often wayward) bride is one of the recurring themes all through Scripture (Ezekiel 16; Hosea 1–3). In Christ we see the full extent of God's love and marital faithfulness. Our marriages should point to the same. God does not exist to make much of marriage; marriage exists to show the world the glory of Christ and His church."

— Note on Ephesians 5 from the *ESV Gospel Transformation Bible*

[Q] According to Ephesians 5:25-27, what has Jesus, the groom, done for the church, His bride? What *will* He do for her? Why does He do it?

[Q] Read Revelation 19:6–9 and Revelation 21:2. What excites you about the description of this ultimate wedding and celebration?

[Q] How might these pictures of Christ give you hope to keep going when things get tough?

[Q] How has this study added to your understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do? How does it impact your love for Him?

Pray
