

[Illus] Love Came Down at Xmas. A Christmas “Cantata!” As I remember we had 6 voices. I thought, “What a good thought.” Why didn’t I think of that. True, but not the whole message.

We are always in danger of isolating the events of scripture from each other. I think it’s always critical to keep the whole in mind. The whole O.T. bears witness to Christ.

When we talk about Jesus coming to redeem his people we have to see that it is something that began in Genesis and that his advent is part of the whole broad sweep and story of the Bible.

I. The close continuity of O.T. & N.T. – he Law and God’s Messiah

[Illus] My copy of the Schofield Bible. Dispensationalist. Chop the Bible up into various epocs (or dispensations) within which God works in completely different ways. Sometimes had radical applications, such as, the Lord’s prayer and sermon on the mount are “Jewish ground”, i.e., not for the church. We can gain insight from them, but they are not directly relevant to the Xtian life– i.e., you don’t have to obey them.

I think this is clearly in error and does not appreciate the continuity of the whole Bible. This is especially clear when we come to Xmas.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Jesus' fulfillment of the law

- obeyed every detail - utterly conformed his life to it - without sin
- not just obey it, we think of the law as rules, Jesus saw the law as prophecy to be fulfilled.

Matt. 5:17 - 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. **18** I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Luke 18:31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the **prophets** about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the **Prophets**, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the **Prophets** and the Psalms.”

II. God Comes Down - an O.T. pattern

I want to suggest that Jesus' coming at Xmas, fulfilling of the Law has a counterpart seen throughout the O.T. and also has a direct connection to Xmas - God coming Down.

The Pattern

Gen. 11:5 & 7 - i will go down

The confusion of languages was judgement, but ultimately grace. **Acts 2:7-11** shows that God's intention was/is always for the salvation of all the nations & tongues

Gen. 18:21 - sodom & gomorrah

- judgment? To be sure, but also
- grace - Jesus stops by Abe's house and gives him the opportunity to intercede for Lot

Ex 3:1-8 - God's intention of redemption from Egypt & Moses' call
angel of the lord
take off your shoes
I am the God of your fathers

Ex 19:11 - God comes down at sinai - giving of the Law - for Israel there was no more important event. [mountain top experience]

2 Chronicles 7:3 when the people saw the fire come down and . . . the presence was overwhelming. [much like presence in new Temple]

Ps. 50:3-5 - Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:

“Gather to me my consecrated ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

Isa. 64:1-2 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and **come down**, that the mountains would tremble before you! 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, **come down** to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

Micah 1:3-4 Look! The LORD is coming from his dwelling-place; he comes down and treads the high places of the earth. 4 The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope.

We conclude that: God “coming down” has a three -fold purpose:

- announces the presence of God
- judgement
- salvation

III. God Comes Down - a N.T. pattern

1. When Jesus, God incarnate, comes down does he do so in a manner consistent with his other comings - decidedly YES!

- announces the presence of God - immanuel
- judgement -
- salvation -

Jn 5:24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Luke 2:34 - rising and falling of many

2. Jesus states specifically that he has “come down”

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

3. **Mark 9; Luke 9:37** - mount of transfiguration - “listen to him”, not to Moses or Elijah

4. There’s one more coming coming!

James 5:8 Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Rev 22:20 - He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Is his final coming for the same purposes? Yes

Rev 11:18 - The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Heb 9:28 - so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

God will be their God and they will be his people - immanuel

So What?

1. First coming is assurance of the 2nd- both are assured through the biblical pattern.
2. Salvation is assured - has always been God's plan to bring salvation.
3. Even so, come Lord Jesus!