

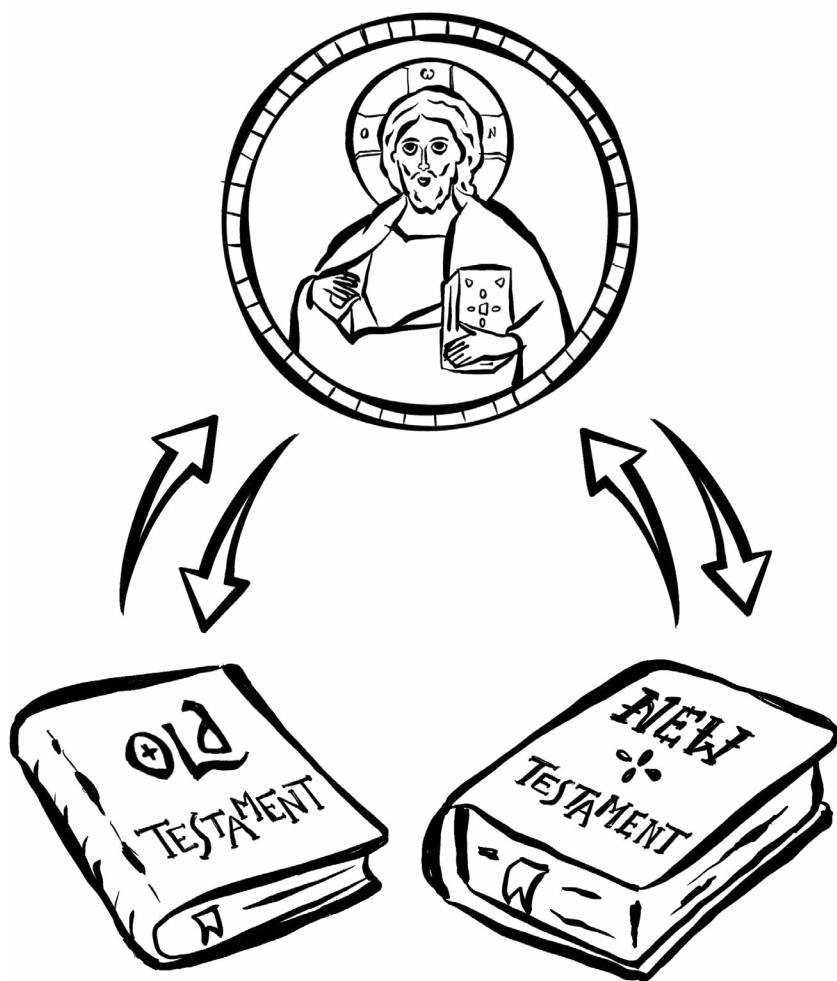


# Old Testament Connections

Exploring the hidden meanings of the Old Testament



# The Hidden Secrets of the Old Testament



Our Church has a holy book, The **Holy Bible**. This book has two parts: The **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**.

In the Old Testament, we read about the great grandfathers of our Lord Jesus Christ. It explains how God promised to the people to send Jesus to earth. In the New Testament, we learn about what happened after our Lord was born.

We can't read one Testament without the other; we need both of them to understand God's plan for us. Today, we will try to uncover some secrets hidden in the Old Testament. They tell us all about the **Incarnation**: the coming of our Lord from heaven to earth.



# Who is Jesse?



Jesse is the father of King and Prophet David and a **great-great-great grandfather** of the Virgin Mary. There is a special icon showing him, and it is called **The Root of Jesse**. We see him sleeping at the root of a tree.

On the trunk of the tree, there is the Theotokos holding the Infant Christ. On the branches, there are Christ's forefathers, the Old Testament Prophets, who told us all about His coming. This image reminds us that our Lord was born as a real baby, exactly as it was foretold in the Old Testament.



*16th-century icon painted by Theodore Poulakis, in the Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens, Greece. Photo by Tilemahos Efthimiadis, Athens, Greece, CC BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons*

## The Ladder of Jacob

Jacob left his home and went away to marry. On the way, he spent the night in the wilderness, sleeping on the ground with a rock for a pillow. That night, he dreamed of a ladder extending to heaven, with angels stepping up and down on it.

**Jacob's Ladder** reminds us that Jesus came down to earth, through His mother the Theotokos, to make a way for us to get to heaven.



## Moses and the Burning Bush

Moses was a shepherd tending to his sheep. Suddenly, he saw a bush on fire - but the fire did not burn down the bush. Then God talked to Moses from the burning bush.

**The burning bush** of Moses reminds us that God, through the Virgin Mary, came down to earth for us and He is always with us. Just as the bush was not destroyed by the flames, so the Theotokos was not hurt by Christ's divinity.

## The Ark of the Covenant

God told Moses how the people should worship Him. He asked Moses to build the Ark of the Covenant, a golden chest to keep the sacred objects of the Israelites. God also asked Moses to sculpt two angels on the cover of the Ark. God promised He would dwell between the two angels to meet with Moses and give him commands for the people.

Just like God came down to Moses in the **golden Ark**, Jesus came down to earth for all the people.





## Aaron and the Staff that sprouted

God had promised Aaron, the brother of Moses, that he would become priest of the Israelites. The leaders of the other tribes got angry. Then God asked Moses to collect the staffs of all the leaders. The next day Aaron's staff had sprouted leaves, flowers and fruit. That way, God showed that he wanted Aaron to become His priest.

It was a miracle that **Aaron's staff** sprouted. In the same way, it was a miracle when Jesus Christ came down to earth and was born from the Theotokos as a little baby.

## Gideon and the Fleece

There was a time when the people of God had forgotten all about Him. Gideon was the only one who still believed in the Lord. So God promised Gideon that He would help him free his people from their enemies.

Gideon asked God for a sign: Gideon would put a fleece of wool outside for the night; if the dew would only fall upon the fleece, leaving the earth around it dry, then Gideon would trust God's words. So it happened: Gideon wrung a whole bowl of water out of the fleece but the land around it was completely dry. Gideon then trusted God's promise.

**Gideon's fleece** reminds us that as the dew came down from heaven upon the fleece, so our God came down from heaven and inside his mother, the Theotokos.

## Isaiah and the Tongs

Isaiah dreamed that he was standing in front of the throne of God in heaven. There, God asked him to tell the people an important message. Isaiah thought he wasn't good enough to see God and convey His message. Then an angel came down to Isaiah, holding a burning coal with a pair of tongs, and wiped his lips with the coal. Isaiah was cleaned and ready for his mission.

Just as the angel's **tongs** safely held the burning coal, so our Lord's mother, the Theotokos, held God inside of her.







## Ezekiel and the Sealed Gate

Ezekiel had a vision: an angel showed him the East Gate of the Temple and said that it was sealed forever because the Lord had passed through it.

The **sealed gate** that God passed through reminds us that our Lord came down to earth through the purest human being, the Theotokos, to be with us.

## Daniel and the Mountain Unhewn

Daniel had become the counselor of the king. One night, the king saw a huge statue of himself in a dream.



Suddenly, without the help of any man, an enormous stone was cut off from a nearby mountain, rolled down, and crashed the statue into pieces. Daniel was called immediately to explain the king's dream.

The **mountain** reminds us of the Mother of God and the **stone** reminds us of Christ: as the stone was cut off from the mountain without the work of a human hand, so Christ was born from His mother without the help of a human father.

## Zachariah and the Seven-light Lampstand

Zachariah had a vision: An angel showed him a lampstand with seven lights.

As the **lampstand** in Zachariah's vision held the light, our Lord's mother held the Light of the World, our Lord Jesus Christ.



# Old Testament Story

**The symbol in this story is...**

**How does this story's symbol connect to the Birth of Christ?**

**The Old Testament verses are...**

**Draw a picture inspired by this story and symbol.**

**A PHRASE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:**



Resources for Teaching  
our budding rocks of faith

**THANK YOU**  
for downloading this file.  
We hope you enjoyed using it.

We will be happy if you visit us again at  
[orthodoxpebbles.com](https://orthodoxpebbles.com).

### Terms of use:

This file comes with a limited use licence for the original download only. Please consider the time and effort put into this project and **don't give it away to others**. Point them to our website instead, so they can download it directly from there.

**COPYRIGHT 2021 Orthodox Pebbles.** All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically for student or teacher use only by the person who downloaded this file from our website. The reproduction of this file for any other use is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this file and placing it on the internet (even on a personal/classroom website/blog) is strictly prohibited.

**Thank you for being fair and respectful of our work.**



Follow us on YouTube:  
[Channel: Orthodox Pebbles](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Follow us on Pinterest:  
[pinterest.com/orthodoxpebbles](https://pinterest.com/orthodoxpebbles)



Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/orthodoxpebbles](https://facebook.com/orthodoxpebbles)



Follow us on Instagram:  
[instagram.com/orthodoxpebbles](https://instagram.com/orthodoxpebbles)

