

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6, Foundations Union OT – Incorporation, Mediators

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6, Foundations Union OT – Incorporation, Mediators, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Peterson's lecture explores the Old Testament foundations of union with Christ, focusing on incorporation and the role of mediators. The session examines how God incorporated his people into a covenant community, foreshadowing New Testament union. **Key Old Testament figures like Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David are presented as covenant mediators who represent God's people.** Their roles and the covenants established through them provide a crucial backdrop for understanding Christ as the ultimate and superior mediator of the new covenant. **The lecture highlights how these Old Testament covenants and mediators illustrate God's corporate dealings with his people and point towards the complete union believers experience with Christ.**

2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Holy Spirit and Union with Christ).



**Peterson_HolySpirit
_Session06.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6, Foundations Union OT – Incorporation, Mediators

Briefing Document: Old Testament Foundations for Union with Christ

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in Session 6 of his teachings on "The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ." This session focuses on the Old Testament foundations for the New Testament concept of union with Christ. Peterson argues that the identification of God's people, their incorporation into his community, and their participation in his covenantal story serve as crucial precursors and foundations for this ultimate union. He emphasizes that while union with Christ fully blossoms in the New Testament, its roots are deeply embedded in the Old Testament. The lecture explores the concept of incorporation into God's covenant people and the role of covenant mediators in the Old Testament as foreshadowing aspects of union with Christ.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Old Testament as Foundation for Union with Christ:

- Peterson asserts that the Old Testament lays the groundwork for understanding New Testament union with Christ. He states: "We continue our series of lectures on union with Christ, probing further into the Old Testament background of union with Christ, viewing the identification of God's people, his incorporating them into his people, and their participation in his covenantal story as precursors of New Testament union with Christ, or the image that we're using is they are part of the foundation of union with Christ, which only comes to full flower in the New Testament, but its roots sink deep into Old Testament soil."
- He cautions against severing the New Testament from the Old, emphasizing that doing so leads to a misunderstanding of the New Testament. As his "Old Testament friend" said, "why can you, how can you neglect two-thirds of the story?"

2. Incorporation: Membership in God's Covenant People:

- The Old Testament foreshadows union with Christ through God's act of joining his people into one body. God's covenants in the Old Testament are primarily corporate, not just individual.
- In the covenant of circumcision with Abraham (Genesis 17), God promises, "I will be God to you, Abraham, and to your seed." Peterson highlights this as an "amazing promise. Individual salvation, corporate salvation."
- While individual faith is necessary, Peterson stresses the corporate nature of God's people: "first of all, the Bible is a corporate book dealing with the people of God in the Old Testament, Israel, and the people of God in the New, the Church. Of course, individual responsibility is never nullified, but it's in the context of the group."
- Being joined to Christ through the Spirit means being joined to every other believer: "as soon as I am joined to Christ by the Spirit, by grace through faith, I am joined to every other person who is joined to Christ in the same supernatural way."

3. Covenantal Structures and Mediators:

- God makes covenants primarily through specific individuals who represent the whole corporate people. These individuals serve as covenant mediators.
- **Adam:** Represents all of humanity in the covenant of creation (or works). His sin resulted in condemnation for the human race (Romans 5). Peterson affirms Adam as a historical individual but also as a representative: "I'm affirming Adam and Eve as individuals, all right, historical individuals, but they're not only that, they are representatives of the people of God."
- **Noah:** Presented as a "second Adam" who represents all humanity after the flood. The Edenic command is repeated to Noah (Genesis 9). The rainbow is the sign of the Noahic covenant, foreshadowing Christ's role in the cosmic restoration.
- **Abraham:** Represents God's chosen people. God's covenant with Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant) is fundamental and overarching, with the Mosaic and Davidic covenants being subsets. Peterson suggests it could be called the "Abraham slash new covenant." The promise to Abraham was by grace through faith, fulfilled in Christ (Galatians 3). Believers in Jesus are corporately the "seed

of Abraham" (Galatians 3:29) and heirs of the promise of eternal life. The land promised to Abraham is a type of the new heavens and the new earth.

- **Moses:** The mediator of the Old Covenant (Mosaic Covenant) made with redeemed Israel at Mount Sinai. This covenant established Israel as God's chosen people, a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19, 1 Peter 2). While Moses was a great mediator, his covenant is annulled by the new covenant mediated by Christ (Hebrews 7-8).
- **David:** God made a covenant with David promising his line would reign over God's kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). This covenant helps understand Jesus as the son of God and the ultimate Davidic King. Jesus is both David's descendant and his Lord (Matthew 22:41-46).

4. Christ as the Ultimate Covenant Mediator:

- The Old Testament covenant mediators pointed forward to Christ, the ultimate mediator of the new covenant: "There is one God, and there's one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Jesus' sacrifice is absolute and effective for the sins of all God's people of all ages, redeeming even Old Testament saints (Hebrews 9:15). His sacrifice brings the Old Testament sacrificial system to an end.
- Christ is portrayed as the "second Adam" and in a sense the "second Noah," restoring the world permanently through his incarnation, sinless life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- The new covenant mediated by Christ fulfills the Abrahamic covenant and supplants the Mosaic covenant as a way of relating to God. Believers now live under the Abrahamic/new covenant.
- Jesus' blood, the blood of the new covenant, "speaks a better word than the blood of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24).

5. The Significance of Old Testament Covenants for Understanding Union with Christ:

- Understanding God's covenantal relationships in the Old Testament, particularly the concept of incorporation through covenant mediators, sheds light on what it means to be incorporated into God's people (the Church, the body of Christ) in the New Testament and thus connected to God himself.

- The Old Testament demonstrates that God deals with his people communally through covenantal structures, a principle that continues in the New Testament union with Christ.

Quote Highlights:

- "its roots sink deep into Old Testament soil." (Regarding the foundations of union with Christ)
- "When God makes his covenant with his people in the Old Testament, he does so corporately, not merely individually."
- "I will be God to you, Abraham, and to your seed." (Genesis 17:7)
- "first of all, the Bible is a corporate book dealing with the people of God in the Old Testament, Israel, and the people of God in the New, the Church."
- "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned, so also, through the obedience of one man, justification and life came to all men." (Interpretation of Romans 5)
- "There is one God, and there's one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)
- "Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:15)
- "Christ is the end of the law, the terminus, the goal of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes." (Interpretation of Romans 10)
- "Christ as a son over God's house...is far superior to Moses, a servant in all God's house." (Hebrews 3:2-6)
- "Even as God is greater than human beings, John 8:58. Before Abraham was, I am, Jesus said."
- "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me." (2 Samuel 7:16)

Next Steps/Looking Ahead:

The next lecture will delve into the concept of the suffering servant of God and how his atonement further contributes to the Old Testament foundation for New Testament union with Christ.

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson effectively argues that the Old Testament provides a crucial framework for understanding the New Testament doctrine of union with Christ. The concepts of corporate identity within God's covenant people and the role of divinely appointed mediators, culminating in the ultimate mediator Jesus Christ, are essential threads connecting the Old and New Testaments. Recognizing these foundations enriches our understanding of what it means to be joined to Christ and to one another in the New Covenant.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6, Foundations Union OT – Incorporation, Mediators

Study Guide: Foundations for Union with Christ in the Old Testament

Key Concepts:

- **Union with Christ:** The spiritual joining of believers to Christ, fully realized in the New Testament but with roots in the Old Testament.
- **Incorporation:** Membership in God's covenant people, both in the Old Testament (Israel) and the New Testament (the Church).
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement between God and humanity, often established through specific individuals.
- **Covenant Mediator:** An individual appointed by God to represent his people in a covenantal relationship.
- **Old Testament Foundations:** Aspects of the Old Testament that foreshadow and provide a basis for New Testament realities, including union with Christ.

I. Incorporation in the Old Testament:

- How does God incorporate his people in the Old Testament?
- Through covenantal relationships established corporately, not just individually.
- Membership in Israel as God's chosen people through covenant.
- Being joined to the covenant mediator who represents the people.
- Why is the corporate aspect of God's covenant with his people important?
- Reflects the biblical emphasis on the people of God as a whole (Israel and the Church).
- Highlights that individual relationship with God occurs within the context of the community of faith.
- Demonstrates that being joined to Christ unites believers to one another.

II. Covenantal Structure and Mediators:

- What is the role of a covenant mediator in the Old Testament?

- To represent the corporate people of God in the covenant.
- To act as an intermediary between God and humanity in the context of the covenant.
- To embody the covenantal promises and obligations.
- Identify the key Old Testament covenant mediators discussed:
- **Adam:** Represents all humanity in the covenant of creation (or works). His sin brought condemnation to all.
- **Noah:** Represents humanity after the flood, a "second Adam," in the Noahic covenant promising not to destroy the earth again.
- **Abraham:** Represents God's chosen people. The Abrahamic covenant, based on grace through faith, is foundational to the new covenant.
- **Moses:** Mediator of the old (Mosaic) covenant with the redeemed nation of Israel at Mount Sinai. The law mediated through him revealed sin and pointed to the need for grace.
- **David:** Mediator of the Davidic covenant, promising an eternal kingdom through his lineage, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.
- How does Jesus Christ relate to the Old Testament covenant mediators?
- He is the ultimate and final covenant mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- The Old Testament mediators foreshadow and point to his unique role and superior covenant.
- He fulfills the promises and realities that the Old Testament covenants anticipated.

III. Significance for Understanding Union with Christ:

- How do the Old Testament concepts of incorporation and covenant mediation lay the groundwork for understanding New Testament union with Christ?
- They establish the pattern of God relating to his people corporately through a representative.
- They illustrate the concept of being joined to God through participation in a covenant mediated by a specific individual.

- They highlight the continuity between God's dealings with his people in the Old and New Testaments.
- Why is it important to understand the Old Testament background of union with Christ?
- Prevents the New Testament from being seen as disconnected from God's previous work.
- Provides a richer and more complete understanding of the nature of salvation and our relationship with God in Christ.
- Counteracts individualistic interpretations of salvation by emphasizing the corporate dimension of being united with Christ and his body, the Church.

Quiz: Foundations for Union with Christ in the Old Testament

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Explain the concept of "incorporation" as it relates to God's people in the Old Testament. How does this foreshadow New Testament realities?
2. Why is it significant that God often made covenants in the Old Testament with a specific individual who represented a larger group? Provide an example.
3. Describe the role of Adam as a covenant mediator. What are the consequences of his actions for humanity according to the text?
4. In what ways is Noah presented as a "second Adam"? What covenant is associated with him, and what does it signify?
5. Explain why Abraham is considered a crucial covenant mediator. How does the Abrahamic covenant relate to the new covenant?
6. What was the primary role of Moses as a covenant mediator? How did the covenant he mediated function in relation to the Abrahamic covenant?
7. Describe the essence of the Davidic covenant. How does this covenant point forward to Jesus Christ?
8. According to the lecture, why is it incorrect to completely sever the New Testament understanding of salvation from its Old Testament roots?
9. In what ways does the lecture suggest that Old Testament believers understood or anticipated the work of Christ?

10. How does understanding the Old Testament concept of covenant mediators help us better grasp Jesus Christ's role in the new covenant?

Answer Key: Foundations for Union with Christ in the Old Testament

1. Incorporation in the Old Testament refers to God joining his people together into one body through covenant membership, primarily seen in the nation of Israel. This foreshadows the New Testament reality of believers being incorporated into the body of Christ, the Church, through union with him.
2. Making covenants through representatives emphasizes the corporate nature of God's relationship with his people, where the leader's actions have implications for the entire group. For example, God's covenant with Abraham included promises not just to him but to his descendants, making him a representative figure.
3. Adam served as the covenant mediator of the covenant of creation, representing all humanity. His disobedience resulted in sin and death entering the world, affecting all those he represented, as explained in Romans.
4. Noah is portrayed as a "second Adam" in that God gives him and his family a new beginning after the flood, repeating the command to be fruitful and multiply. The Noahic covenant, symbolized by the rainbow, promises never again to destroy the earth by flood.
5. Abraham is a crucial covenant mediator because the Abrahamic covenant, established by grace through faith, is the foundational covenant upon which the new covenant is built and fulfilled in Christ. The promise to Abraham and his "seed" (Christ and believers) is central to God's redemptive plan.
6. Moses was the mediator of the old (Mosaic) covenant, through which God established Israel as his chosen people at Mount Sinai and gave them the Law. This covenant served to reveal sin and act as a temporary guardian (pedagogue) until the coming of Christ, being subordinate to the Abrahamic covenant.
7. The Davidic covenant promised King David that his lineage would reign over God's kingdom forever. This covenant anticipates the ultimate Davidic king, Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah and whose kingdom is eternal.
8. Severing the New Testament from the Old Testament neglects two-thirds of God's redemptive story and fails to recognize the foundational work God did in the Old

Testament to prepare for and foreshadow the coming of Christ and the new covenant. The New Testament does not appear in a vacuum.

9. The lecture suggests that Old Testament believers, while not fully understanding the specifics of Jesus' death and resurrection, trusted God to deal with their sins through his ordained means, perhaps dimly seeing the Redeemer to come and understanding their forgiveness was ultimately grounded in God's plan.
10. Understanding the Old Testament covenant mediators reveals God's consistent pattern of working with humanity through representatives within a covenantal framework. This provides a crucial context for understanding Jesus Christ as the ultimate and superior mediator of the new covenant, who perfectly represents and reconciles his people to God.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of the concept of "incorporation" in the Old Testament for understanding the New Testament doctrine of union with Christ. How does God's covenantal relationship with Israel as a corporate entity illuminate the believer's union with Christ and the Church?
2. Analyze the roles of at least three key Old Testament covenant mediators (Adam, Abraham, Moses, or David) and explain how their mediatorial work foreshadows or contrasts with the unique mediatorial role of Jesus Christ in the new covenant.
3. Explain the relationship between the Abrahamic covenant and the new covenant, as presented in the lecture. How does understanding the priority and nature of the Abrahamic covenant inform our understanding of salvation in Christ?
4. Critically evaluate the claim that the Old Testament provides essential "foundations" for understanding union with Christ in the New Testament. What specific examples from the lecture support this claim, and what might be potential limitations or nuances to consider?
5. Discuss the tension and continuity between individual and corporate identity in God's covenantal dealings in the Old Testament. How does this interplay inform our understanding of individual salvation and membership in the body of Christ in the New Testament?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Union with Christ:** A central theological concept in the New Testament describing the believer's spiritual and vital connection to Jesus Christ, resulting in shared life, identity, and blessings.
- **Incorporation:** The act of being included or integrated into a larger body or group. In a theological context, it refers to being made a member of God's covenant people, whether Israel in the Old Testament or the Church in the New Testament.
- **Covenant:** A solemn agreement or binding commitment between two parties, often used in Scripture to describe God's relationship with humanity and specific individuals or groups.
- **Covenant Mediator:** An individual appointed by God to act as a representative and intermediary in establishing and maintaining a covenant relationship between God and his people.
- **Old Testament Saints:** Believers who lived and died before the coming of Jesus Christ, under the Old Testament covenants.
- **Regeneration:** A theological term referring to the work of the Holy Spirit in giving new spiritual life to an individual, often associated with conversion and faith in Christ.
- **Justification:** A legal declaration by God that a sinner is righteous in his sight, based on Christ's atoning sacrifice and received through faith.
- **Imputation:** The theological concept of crediting or reckoning something to another. In relation to sin, Adam's sin is imputed to humanity; in relation to righteousness, Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers.
- **Atonement:** The work of Jesus Christ in his life, death, and resurrection by which he reconciled God and humanity, paying the penalty for sin and restoring a right relationship.
- **Messiah:** The promised deliverer and king of Israel, prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- **Pedagogue:** An ancient Greek term sometimes used to describe a guardian or tutor who guided children. Paul uses this metaphor to describe the role of the Law in leading people to Christ.

- **New Covenant:** The covenant established by God through Jesus Christ, fulfilling and superseding the Old Covenant. It is characterized by the forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a direct relationship with God.
- **Elect:** Those whom God has sovereignly chosen for salvation from before the foundation of the world.
- **Stewardship:** The responsibility of caring for and managing something that belongs to another. Adam and Eve were given stewardship over God's creation.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, The Holy Spirit and Union with Christ, Session 6, Foundations Union OT – Incorporation, Mediators, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Old Testament Foundations of Union with Christ

1. How does the Old Testament concept of God's covenant people relate to the New Testament idea of union with Christ? The Old Testament establishes a foundation for union with Christ through God's covenant with his people. In the Old Testament, God corporately incorporates people into his covenant community, primarily through specific individuals who represent the whole group. This corporate identity and participation in God's covenantal story, such as with Israel, foreshadows the New Testament concept of being joined to Christ and, consequently, to one another in his body, the church. While Old Testament believers didn't experience the full flowering of union with Christ as seen in the New Testament through the incarnation and Pentecost, their incorporation into God's people and participation in covenantal structures laid the groundwork for understanding what it means to be connected to God.

2. What is the significance of "incorporation" in the Old Testament, and how does it prefigure union with Christ? Incorporation in the Old Testament refers to God's act of joining his people together into one body through his covenant. This was not merely individual but corporate, as seen in the covenant of circumcision with Abraham, where God promised to be God to Abraham and his seed. While individual faith and regeneration were necessary for true relationship with God, this occurred within the context of a corporate people. This Old Testament emphasis on corporate membership in God's covenant community foreshadows the New Testament reality that when an individual is joined to Christ by the Spirit through faith, they are simultaneously joined to every other believer in the same supernatural way, becoming part of Christ's body.

3. Who are the key covenant mediators in the Old Testament, and what role do they play? The Old Testament features several key covenant mediators through whom God primarily related to his corporate people. These include Adam, who represented all humanity in the covenant of creation; Noah, who represented humanity after the flood and the covenant God made to not destroy the earth again; Abraham, who represented God's chosen people and with whom God established a foundational covenant of grace through faith; Moses, who mediated the Old Covenant with the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, establishing them as God's treasured possession; and David, with whom God made a covenant promising an eternal royal line. These mediators represent God's

people and facilitate the terms of the covenant between God and humanity or a specific group within it, pointing forward to Christ as the ultimate and final covenant mediator.

4. How does Adam function as a covenant mediator, and what are the implications of his role? Adam, as the first man, acted as a covenant mediator representing all of humanity in the covenant of creation (or covenant of works). His obedience or disobedience had consequences for all those he represented. His sin resulted in condemnation and sinfulness for the entire human race. Paul contrasts Adam with Christ, the "second" or "last Adam," whose obedience brings justification and life to all who believe. Understanding Adam as a covenant mediator helps us grasp the concept of representative headship and how one person's actions can have profound implications for many, a principle that culminates in Christ's redemptive work.

5. How does the covenant with Abraham relate to the New Covenant established through Christ? The covenant God made with Abraham is presented as a foundational covenant of grace through faith, which is fulfilled and superseded by the New Covenant in Christ. The Abrahamic covenant, promising blessing to Abraham and his offspring (singularly Christ and corporately believers), precedes and is more fundamental than the Mosaic Covenant. The law given through Moses served as a temporary pedagogue, revealing sin and our need for God's grace, but it does not annul the prior covenant with Abraham. The New Covenant is seen as the ultimate realization of the promises made to Abraham, where believers in Christ are considered Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise of eternal life.

6. What was the purpose of the Mosaic Covenant, and how does it differ from the New Covenant? The Mosaic Covenant, mediated by Moses, established Israel as God's chosen people, his treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. It was given after the Exodus and was conditional upon Israel's obedience to God's law. The law served to reveal sin and demonstrate humanity's inability to perfectly keep God's standards, thus highlighting the need for grace. The New Covenant, mediated by Christ, is superior to the Mosaic Covenant and ultimately makes it obsolete. It is based on the sacrifice of Christ, which redeems believers from the transgressions committed under the first covenant and offers forgiveness and eternal inheritance. Unlike the conditional Mosaic Covenant, the New Covenant is grounded in God's grace and Christ's finished work.

7. How does David function as a covenant mediator, and what does his covenant reveal about Jesus? God's covenant with David promised that his offspring would establish an eternal kingdom. This covenant is crucial for understanding Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of David, and ultimately the Son of God. The Davidic king was considered a son of God in a special way, and God promised to establish his throne forever. This points directly to Jesus Christ, who is David's descendant but also his Lord, fulfilling the promises of an everlasting reign and representing his people as God's own son. Jesus, as the greater David, grants his people rest and mediates God's blessings.

8. In what ways do the Old Testament covenant mediators foreshadow or point to Jesus Christ as the ultimate mediator? The various Old Testament covenant mediators, each in their own way, foreshadow aspects of Jesus Christ's role as the ultimate mediator of the New Covenant. Adam's role as representative head highlights Christ's representative obedience. Noah's mediation for a restored world anticipates Christ's cosmic reconciliation. Abraham's covenant of grace through faith points to salvation by grace through faith in Christ. Moses, as the mediator of the Old Covenant, shows the need for a greater mediator who can truly fulfill God's law. David's promise of an eternal king finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Thus, the Old Testament mediators serve as types and shadows, illustrating God's principles of covenant mediation and preparing the way for the unique and complete mediation of Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice is effective for all of God's people of all ages.