

Chapter 7
The Meeting of Abraham and Melchizedek
Peter Paul Rubens
Prefiguring the Eucharist

The Old Testament is “deliberately so oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, redeemer of all” (Dei Verbum, 15). In this lesson, students will analyze places in the Old Testament where the Eucharist was prefigured. Students will be provided with a short passage from the Old Testament. They will be asked to summarize the passage in a couple of sentences. Students will then be asked to draw connections between the passage and the Eucharist. The goal of this assignment is to bring to life these Old Testament texts and show the unity between Old and New Testaments.

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All of Scripture—both the New Testament and the Old Testament—draws us to the life of Christ. St. Augustine said that “the New Testament is hidden in the Old; the Old is revealed in the New.” This means that words and events of the Old Testament foreshadow what occurs in the New Testament in the life of Jesus. This was certainly the case in the priesthood of Jesus that was foreshadowed in the priesthood of Melchizedek. There are also several places where the Eucharist is foreshadowed or prefigured in the Old Testament.

Christ’s gift of the Eucharist at the Last Supper did not come out of nowhere. God had been preparing to give this to humanity, and he left hints throughout the Old Testament. These hints, or prefigurements, show us the roots of the Eucharist.

You will be looking at two Old Testament passages: the first Passover and the Manna in the Desert. Read each passage. Write a two-sentence summary. Then write two sentences explaining how the Old Testament event is connected with the Eucharist.

[The First Passover \(Ex 12:1-14\)](#)

Summarize the passage:

How does this passage connect to (prefigure) the Eucharist?

[Manna in the Desert \(Ex 16:4-21\)](#)

Summarize the passage:

How does this passage connect to (prefigure) the Eucharist?

