New Testament Use of the Old Testament

Week 1: Introduction

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Trivia Question from Anchor Tidings 2/26/2026

- Do you know which Old Testament verse is most often quoted in the New Testament?
  - Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created…”
  - Psalm 110:1 – “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit…’”
  - Isaiah 53:5 – “But he was pierced for our transgressions…”
  - Jeremiah 31:31 – “…declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant…”

Answer

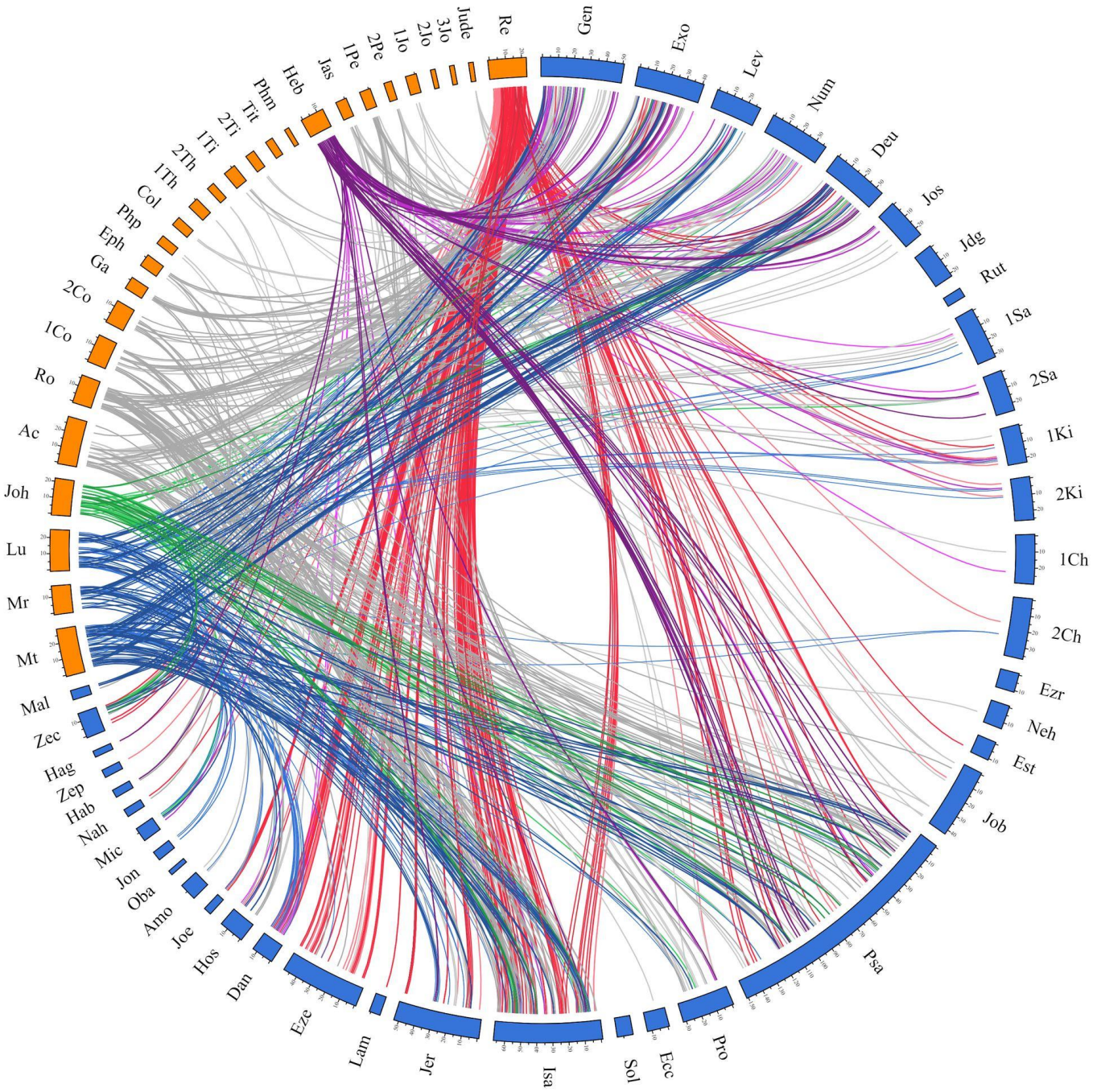
- **The correct answer is Psalm 110:1,** which reads,
  "The LORD says to my Lord:
  'Sit at my right hand,
  until I make your enemies your footstool.'"
- Daniel Manwiller wrote that it's tough to categorize what counts as a direct quote, allusion, or echo, but Psalm 110:1 regularly comes out on top of such listings. Here is a listing of 16 New Testament quotes or formal allusions to Psalm 110:1:
- More direct, either quotes or that refer to sitting and enemies: Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42–43, Acts 2:34–35, 1 Corinthians 15:25, Hebrews 1:13, 10:12–13
- Less direct, mostly referring to Jesus's sitting: Matthew 26:64, Mark 14:62, Mark 16:19, Luke 22:69, Acts 7:55, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 13

The NT uses the OT many times

- We will be learning about these connections between testaments.
  - Finding them.
  - Categorizing them.
  - Explaining them.
- Major goals:
  - Understand and explain the connection between the passages so that we can understand the Bible better and live out its teaching more faithfully.
  - Avoid interpretive errors that can imply more than we anticipate.
  - Recognize how the NT authors used the OT in more ways than we initially thought.
  - Appreciate the glorious interconnectedness of the entire Bible.
  - Understand the Old Testament better.

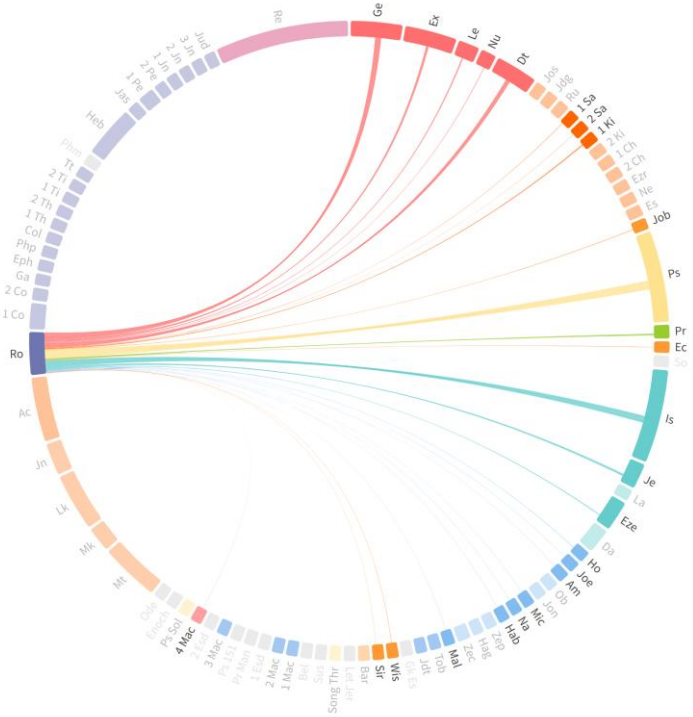
Graphically

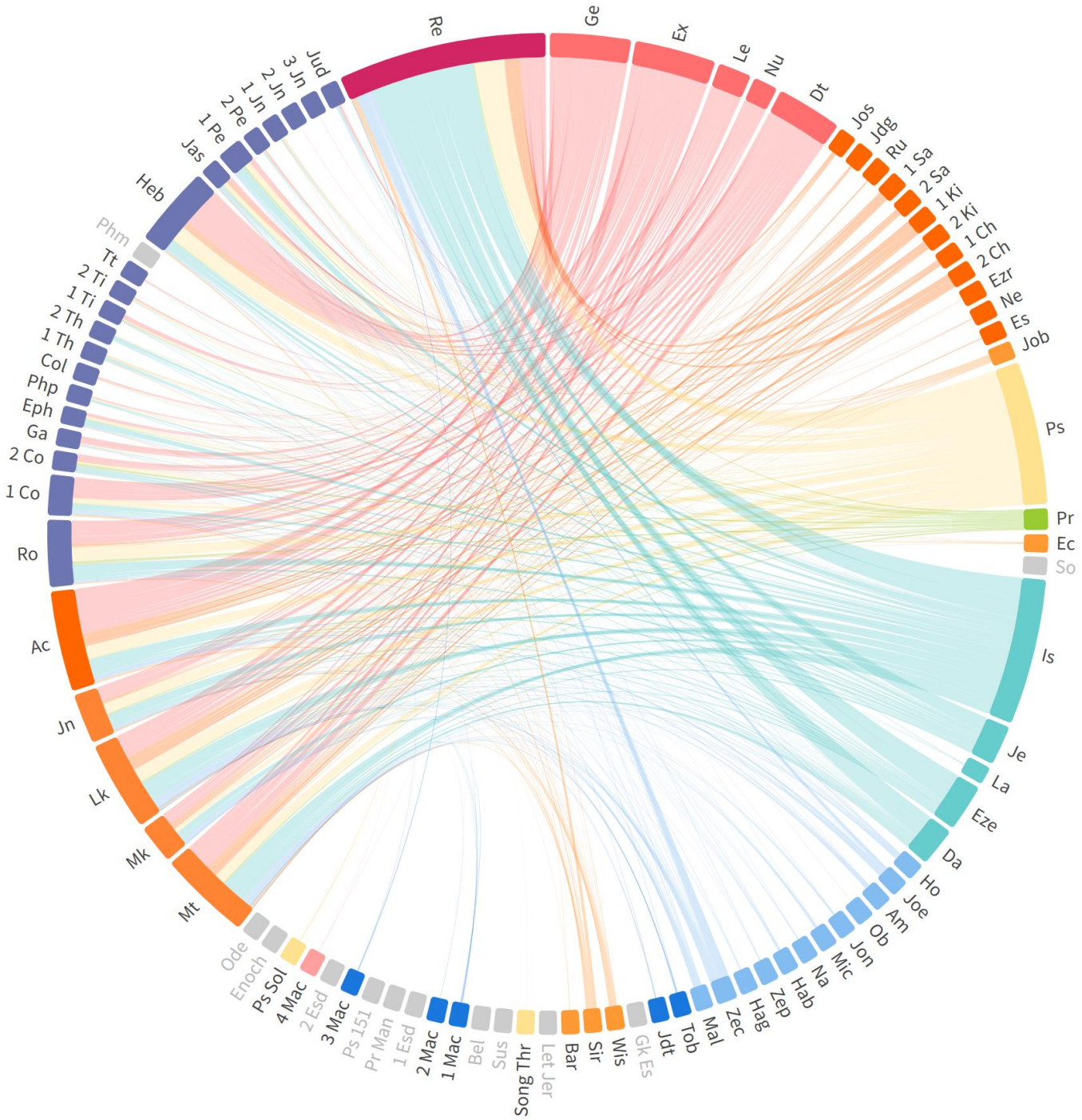
- The Bible books are represented around the circumference of the circle. The books are divided into smaller chapter groupings.
- Lines represent quotations in the NT from the OT.
- Blue = Connections from synoptic gospels
- Green = John
- Purple = Hebrews
- Gray = Acts and most Epistles
- Red = Revelation



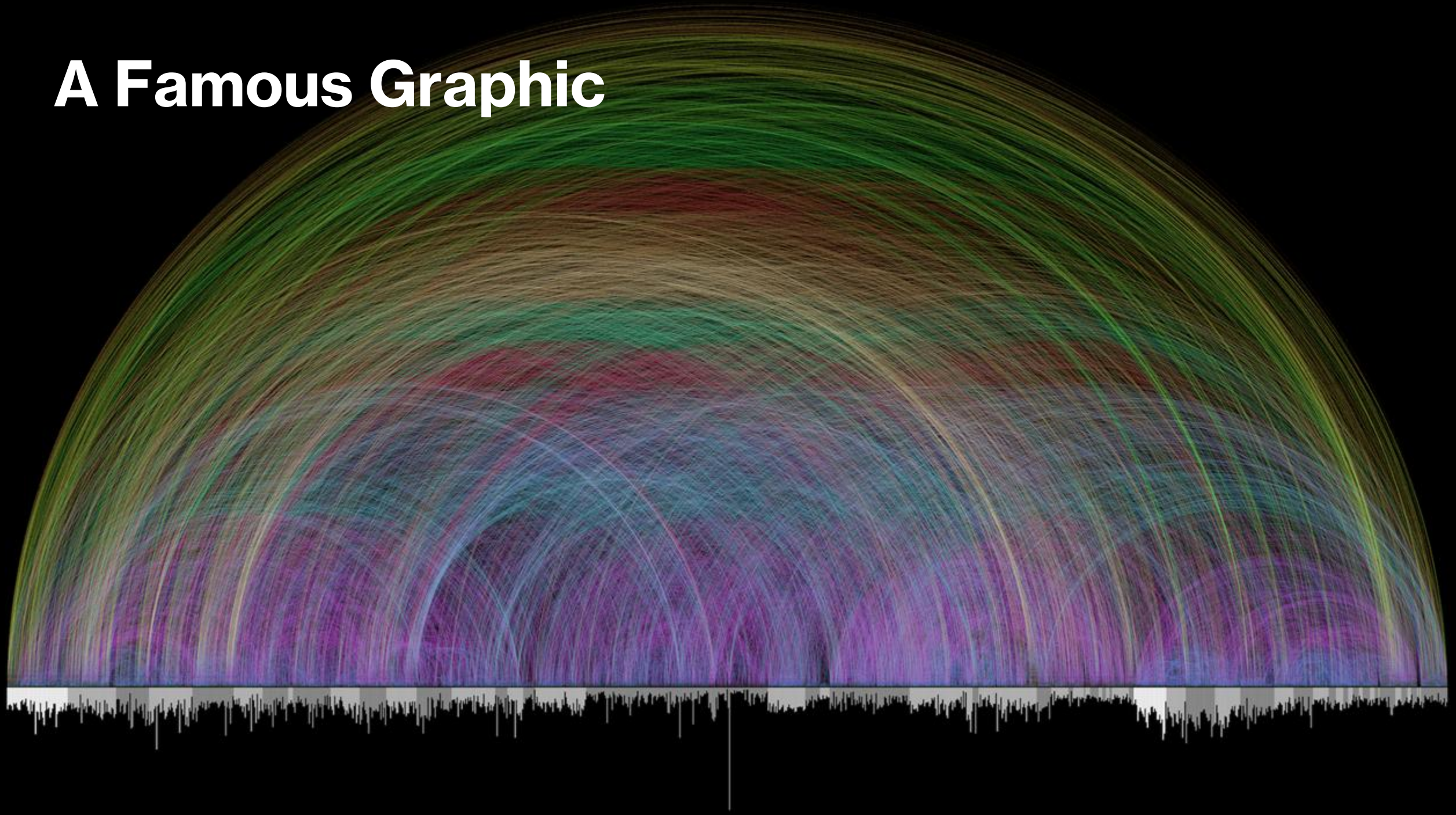
In Logos Software

- Similar to the previous graphic, but in the Logos Bible Books Explorer. Hover a book and it will focus on just those quotations, as below. Click for search results in a search window.





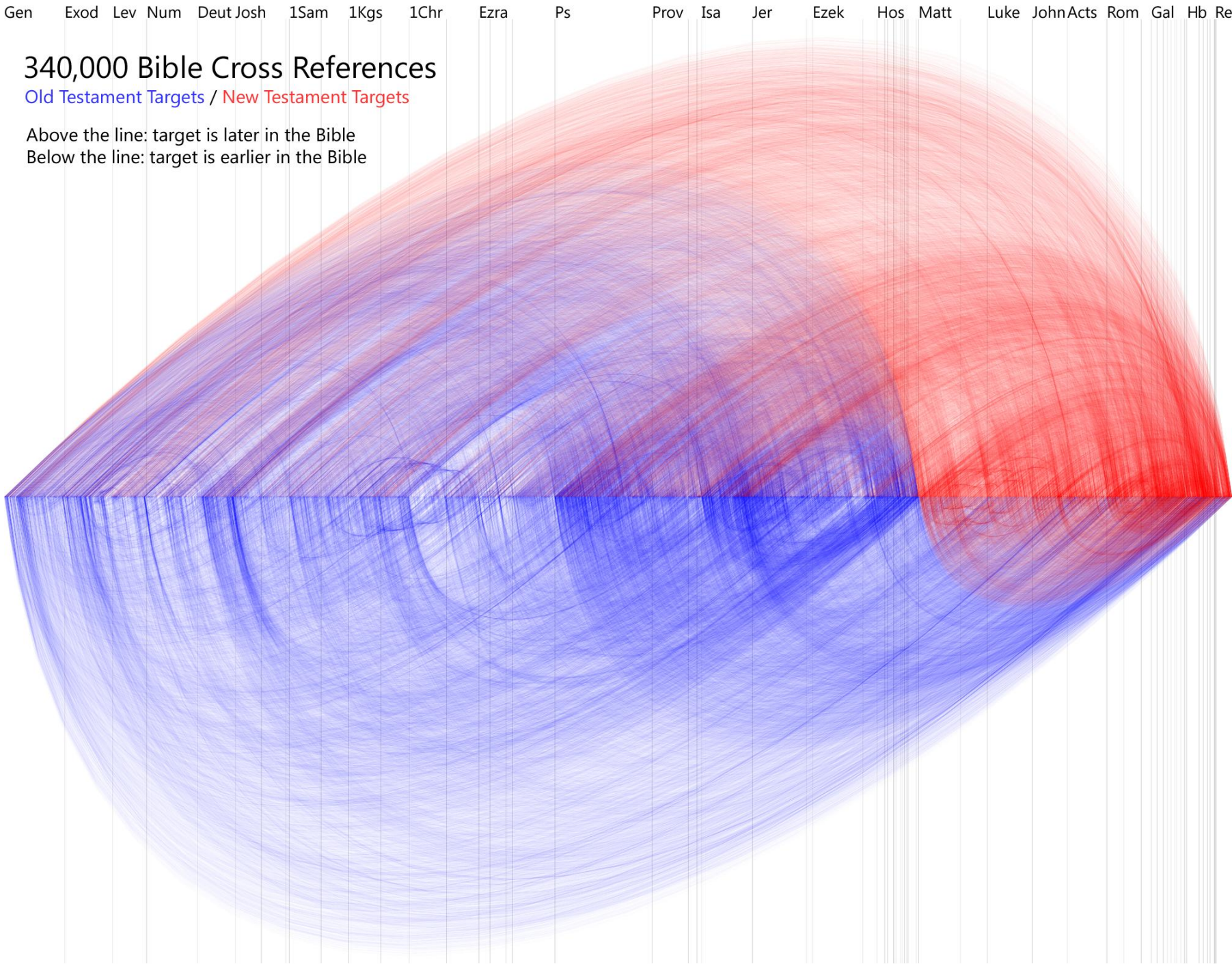
A Famous Graphic



Do not Forget the OT Use of the OT!

- This is not as “popular” as the NT use of the OT, but it is important nonetheless.
- For example: Daniel 9:2 refers to Jeremiah 25:11.
- There are hundreds of references to the Law of Moses throughout the Hebrew Bible.
- In fact, this is a key reason that we reject the “evolutionary model” of the development of “Old Testament religion.”
  - The Mosaic system was revealed by God in large chunks, not “developed” by man or accidentally evolved over the course of centuries.
  - Of course there is further revelation of new material to the prophets, but much of it is simply exhorting the people to go back to the Mosaic foundation.
  - The wisdom writers (say around 1000 B.C.) and the later prophets (say 800 to 400 B.C.) simply call the people back to faithfulness to an ancient faith revealed around 1400 B.C. through Moses.

Another Graphic



What about the NT Use of the NT?

- There are a few examples and maybe you can think of more.
- Peter refers to Paul in 2 Peter 3:15-16 which is a general reference to a lot of Paul's writing.
- Paul in 1 Timothy 5:18 writes, "For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."
  - The first quote is from Deuteronomy 25:4, with a connection to 1 Cor. 9:7-9.
  - The second quote is from Luke 10:7, with connections to Lev. 19:13; Deut. 24:15; Matt. 10:10; 1 Cor. 9:14.
  - This reminds me of my amazement at the OT expertise of our NT authors.
- We would not expect to find any OT Use of the NT!

What I am Getting At Is...

- Because of progressive revelation, that which comes earlier cannot refer a text that has not yet been written. Of course, God can write things earlier that predict later events, but we cannot think that a human author consciously relied upon a text that was written later because it did not yet exist!
- But also because of progressive revelation, a later OT text can refer to an earlier OT text, and a later NT text can refer to an earlier NT text, and a NT text can refer to an OT text, all of which were written before the NT was written.
- I take it that the division of NT / OT, while it has validity, is a bit artificial. We should not focus only on arcs that cross the testament boundary as if they are the most important. The Bible is a single volume, organically interconnected as one book.
- Nevertheless, we will focus on NT use of the OT since that is an important sub-topic.

Just How Many Quotes Are There?

- I am not aware of a universally agreed-upon number of quotes or cross-references. One database has several hundred; another several thousand; one has 63,779; the one pictured previously has 340,000.
- There is a matter of terminology that we should clear up.
  - **Quotations** or **citations** are specific connections from an NT text to an OT one. For example, "As it is written…" or "that it might be fulfilled…" or an obvious word-for-word quotation without a formula.
  - **Allusions** are a bit looser, and **echoes** are even looser.
  - **Cross-references** are a larger set of Bible verses that have thematic or informational overlap. Direct quotation is not required—only conceptual or wording overlap.
- Concerning direct quotations, one source says there are 283; one says 300-350. Logos has 334 (see next). **We will settle on "around 300."** So: **"The NT explicitly refers to or quotes the OT about 300 times."**
- Do you think we as a class can find them all and put them into a master list? It would be interesting to dig into this question a lot more.

More Specific Terminology: Logos

- Logos Definitions in Tools > NT Use of the OT Interactive
  - *Quotation:* A direct reference to scripture, largely matching the verbatim wording of the source but without a quotation formula. (Logos has 96)
  - *Citation:* An explicit reference to scripture with a citation formula (e.g. “It is written,” or “the Lord says,” or “the prophet says”). (Logos has 238 of these.)
  - *Echo:* A verbal parallel evokes or recalls a scripture (or series of scriptures) to the reader, but likely without authorial intention to reproduce exact words. (Logos has 598)
  - *Allusion:* An indirect but intentional reference to scripture, likely intended to invoke memory of the scripture. Some selected by Logos are sketchy in terms of the intentionality of the reference; some are probably just verbal parallels. (Logos has 1642)
- Notice how the numbers get much larger as you move down the list, indicating a broadening of the net at each level.

But…This Terminology is Not Precise

- The definitions are a bit slippery. For example, under the Allusion category, Logos connects Matthew 1:1 and Genesis 5:1 because the parallel phrase “the book of the genealogy” draws a similarity between Jesus Christ and Adam. But I personally do not think of Adam’s genealogy when I read about Jesus’s genealogy.
- Instead…I think of some other verses. Logos maybe should (but does not) map John 1:1’s “In the beginning was the Word” to Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth” or Hebrews 1:10 “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth” or 1 John 1:1 “That which was from the beginning…” These are more clear allusions than a word about a genealogy, which occurs many times in the Bible.

Examples

- Walk through the following texts and try to classify them as quotation with or without a citation formula, or an allusion, and then what the exact connection is, whether predicted event fulfilled, or analogy, or a reference to earlier teaching.
- Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23
- Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:6
- Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15.
  - This is a debated one. I am convinced that it is a historical analogy that makes a likeness between Israel and Jesus. Hosea is not a prophecy—it is history!
- Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4

Homework for Next Week

- Read Beale's Preface, Intro, and chapter 1. Be prepared to discuss in class.
- Find and classify the OT quotations / allusions in the first 20% of the chapters of your assigned NT section. Turn in your work in Canvas. The use of AI is **not** allowed.

OT Source	NT Use	Type	Connection
Isa 7:14	Mat 1:23	Quotation	Prediction fulfilled
Deu 8:3	Mat 4:4	Quotation	Teaching obeyed

- **Type** can be Quotation or Allusion. **Connection** can be one of several two-word descriptions where the first word describes the OT passage and the second word describes the NT usage. **See the next slide for options**.
- You may use a reference or study Bible. Some Bibles format the longer OT quotations with all caps or formatted with indentation or italics so they are easier to find. Each week you will add to the bottom of your list. Some of you will find more, and some less quotations.

OT ➔ NT Connection Types – About 14 Types

- Prediction fulfilled or pending (still coming in the future)
- Historical analogy (this is like that) or historical reference (remember, that happened)
- Law obeyed, explained, applied, or exhorted
- Theology applied or misapplied
- Wording adapted – similar wording but used after the manner of lexical priming
- Idea illustrated - possibly more useful for allusions
- Scripture reading – like Acts 8:32-33 records Isa 53:7-8 or Luke 4:18-19
- Pattern Fulfilled – a situation or prediction can be fulfilled repeatedly because it expresses "the way things are or will be," not "the one way that a thing will be one time."
- Other connection types will come to light and we will discuss and add them to this "official list." If unsure, put Unsure and we will try to help each another to figure it out.

Homework for Next Week: Project Step 1

- Select an OT quotation used in the NT to analyze. We will work from this list (**bold = taken**):
  - **Habakkuk 2:4 in Romans 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Hebrews 10:37-38**
  - **2 Samuel 7:14 in Hebrews 1:5**
  - Genesis 12:7 and 22:18 in Galatians 3:16
  - **Psalm 19:4 in Romans 10:18**
  - Hosea 2:23 in 1 Peter 2:10
  - Psalm 22:1 in Matthew 27:46 // Mark 15:34
  - **Psalm 16:8-11 in Acts 2:25-28**
  - **Psalm 78:2 in Matthew 13:35**
  - Genesis 16 and 21 in Galatians 4:21-31
  - Psalm 69:9 in Romans 15:3
  - Deuteronomy 25:4 and 1 Corinthians 9:9
  - **Isaiah 53:4 in Matthew 8:17**
  - Deut. 32:43 and Heb. 1:6
  - **Genesis 15:6 and Rom 4:3**