The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament is distinct of:

  - **Harmony of the Law** - for example, Jean Calvin’s commentary on the Books Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy (Commentarii Ioannis Calvini In Quinque Libros Mosis : Genesis Seorsum: Reliqui Quatuor In Formam Harmoniae Digesti... (Geneva: De Hus, 1573).

  - **Harmony of the Gospels** - for example.
    - St. Augustine, *De Consensu Evangelistarum* (c. 400-405)
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  
  - St. Augustine *Of the Morals of the Catholic Church* (388)
  
  - Chapter 9, “Harmony of the Old and New Testament on the Precepts of Charity.”
    - Come now, let us examine, or rather let us take notice—for it is obvious and can be seen, at once—whether the authority of the Old Testament too agrees with those statements taken from the gospel and the apostle.
  
  - Chapter 16, “Harmony of the Old and New Testaments”
    - “I will briefly set forth the manner of life according to these virtues (love is temperance, fortitude, justice, prudence) one by one, after I have brought forward, as I promised, passages from the Old Testament parallel to those I have been quoting from the New Testament.”

- Harmony = parallel texts / agreement between Old and New Testament
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  - Joachim Of Fiore, *Liber concordie Novi ac Veteris Testamenti* (“Book of Harmony of the New and Old Testaments”) (ca. 1184)
  - Joachim worked out his philosophy of history, primarily in a pattern of “twos”—the concords between the two great dispensations (or Testaments) of history, the Old and the New. The church only after arduous pilgrimage and great tribulation, like the Israelites marching through the wilderness and crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land.
  - Harmony = Eschatological “narrative” of the Old and New Testament
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  - Rise of “Harmonization” genre in 16th - 18th century
  - Jean Calvin, Commentaires de Jean Calvin sur la concordance ou harmonie, composee des trois Evanglistes, assavoir saint Matthieu, saint Marc, & saint Luc ... (Geneva: M. Blanchier, 1563).
  - John Lightfoot, The harmony of the four evangelists ...(1684)
  - William Whiston, A short view of the chronology of the Old Testament : and of the harmony of the four evangelists (1702)
  - Edward Wells, A treatise concerning the harmony of the four gospels (1718)
  - James Macknight, A harmony of the four Gospels: in which the natural order of each is preserved (1750)
  - Joseph Priestley, The harmony of the Evangelists in Greek (1771)
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  - Medieval and Early Modern era understanding
  - The Church is:
    - “Abraham’s posterity / heritage”; “just Remnant” (Isaiah); “New Covenant” (Jeremiah); “people of the secrets of the Most High” (Daniel); “the true Israel”; “all of Israel comes to life again mysteriously in the Church, with its history, its characters, its struggles, its trials, its destiny, and its hopes” (Dunn Scotus 14th century)
  - The New Jerusalem, as the city is now “Sodom and Egypt”, with the 12 mystical gates reminiscent of the 12 tribes of the OT and 12 apostles of the NT
    - “Mount Sinai” and “Mount Zion”
  - The two testaments are “brothers” (Origen); “the two wings of the church” (Anon, 12th cent.).
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

- Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  - Medieval and Early Modern era understanding
    - The OT and NT are to be discovered a:
      - Consensus (Origen)
      - Connection (Hillary of Poitiers 4th cent.)
      - Harmony (Alcuin 8th cent.)
      - Concerted unity (Paschasius Radbertus 8th cent.)
      - Harmonious agreement (Richard of St Victor, 12th cent.)
      - Concordant (Aquinas 13th cent.)
The “Harmonization” Tradition in Christian Thought

• Harmonization of the Old and New Testament:
  • Medieval and Early Modern era understanding
  • The Symbols of Harmony
    • Example, Miracle at Cana: Jesus changes “water of the letter into the wine of the spirit; the ancient law transforms into the gracious beauty of the Gospel” (Ambrosius, 3th cent.)
  • Fulfillment pattern OT foreshadows - NT fulfillment
  • Meeting of the OT and NT and complete fulfillment - Christ

Harmonization - Christological dimension