



The Bible
in Anglo-Saxon England

Old English biblical literature

- prose translation (Heptateuch, gospels, Psalms, gospel of Nicodemus)
- verse translation (Psalms, the Lord's Prayer)
- verse paraphrase (*Genesis, Exodus, Daniel, Azarias, Judith*)
- poetry on biblical subjects (*Christ and Satan, The Descent into Hell, Christ, Dream of the Rood, Fates of the Apostles*)
- allegory (*The Phoenix, The Whale, The Panther*)
- poems on 'biblical' characters (*Andreas, Elene*)
- saints' lives
- homilies

thematic emphases in OE homiletics

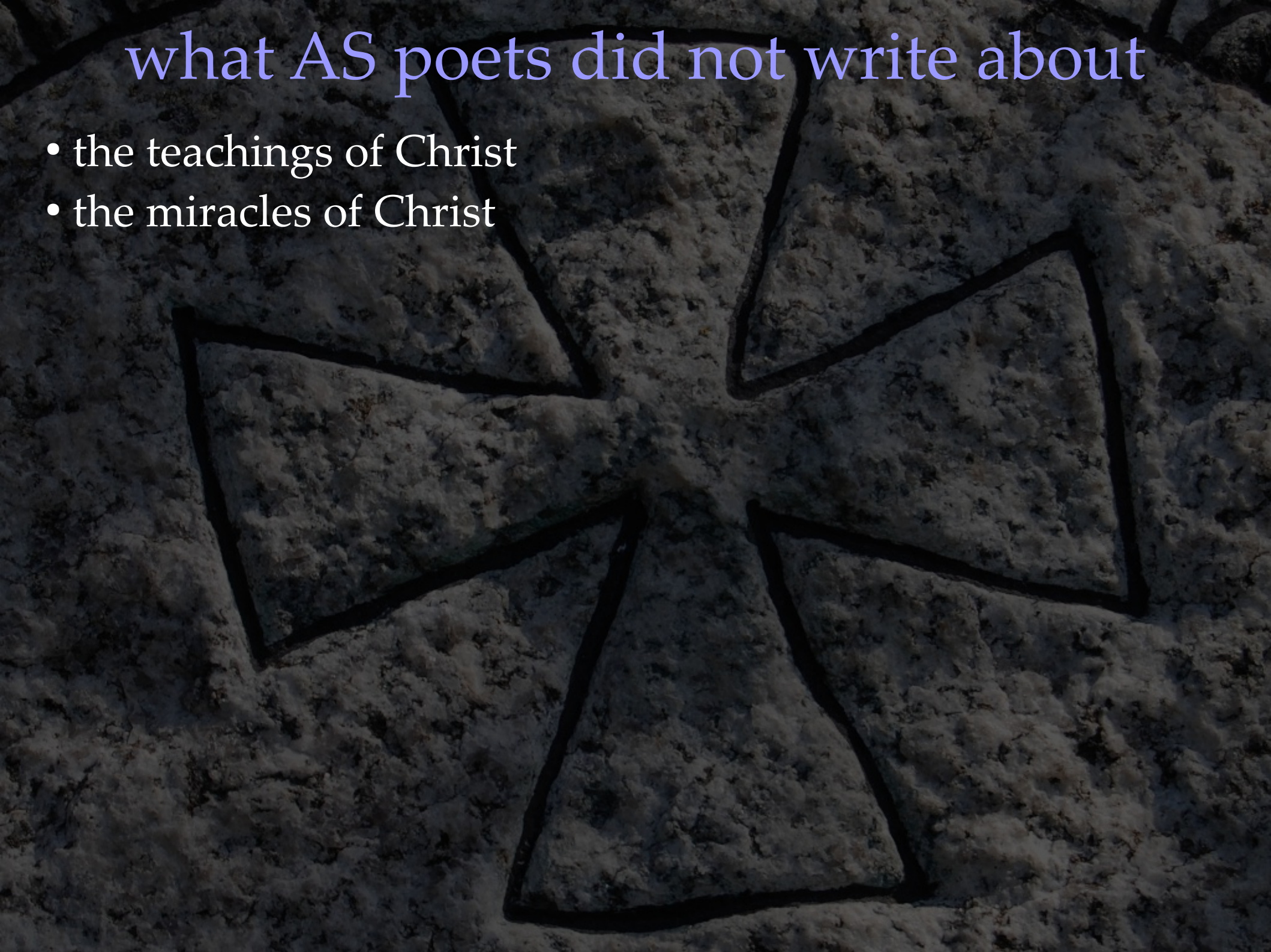
- pericope
- liturgy
- eschatology
- communal sin
- the pursuit of virtue and defence against the devil

thematic emphases in OE poetry

- Psalms
- the fall of angels and man
- the Harrowing of Hell
- the Crucifixion
- the Last Judgement
- the historical books

what AS poets did not write about

- the teachings of Christ
- the miracles of Christ



why the AS interest in the Old Testament?

- allegory
- warfare
- annalistics
- genealogy
- aetiology
 - creation
 - evil
- oppression at heathen hands
- tragedy (fall of angels, fall of man, historical books)
- models of kingship (David, Solomon)
- legislation
- The Hebrews, like the AS, have a history of migration (Nicholas Howe)