Interpreting Jesus' references to "what is written about me" in Scripture in Luke's Gospel

For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed <u>what is written about me is being fulfilled</u>." (22.37)

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the <u>things about himself in all the scriptures</u>. (24.27)

"Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that <u>everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms</u> must be fulfilled." (24.44)

INTERPRETING JESUS' INTERPRETATION: OPTIONS

1. **"LOGOS" THEORY:** Since John's Gospel equates the existence of Jesus with the "Word" (Greek, logos), it can be concluded that all the "word of God" in the Bible was "really" spoken by Jesus.

2. **"TYPOLOGY":** where stories, images, etc. from the Hebrew Bible are understood to "prefigure" something found in the New Testament, as an intentional element of how the earlier story was written. *Example*: the dove Noah sent out after the Flood as an anticipation of the Spirit like a dove coming on Jesus.

3. **ALLEGORY:** a denial of the "plain" meaning of a story (i.e., it's historical and cultural contexts) in favor of interpreting "spiritually." *Example*: the life of Moses as an allegory of the individual soul's journey to perfection.

4. **SPECIFIC "MATCHING" TEXTS:** seeking to find the passages that "prove" Jesus' authority and status. *Example*: Isaiah's "Suffering Servant" song, 52.13-53.12.

5. **RELIGION OF EMPIRE VS. RELIGION OF CREATION:** hearing Jesus' message as a call to sift through the Bible not for "special" passages that serve as "proof," but for the patterns that link texts along the spectrum between the two endpoints of "empire" and "creation."

6. **THE QUESTION OF "ABOUT/AROUND ME":**
   a) referring to a Jesus not-yet-born
   b) referring to "the *logos*" which became flesh "later" in Jesus of Nazareth
   c) referring to the prophetic words/deeds Jesus said/did as part of a pattern