

Theme: The major people, events, and institutions of the Old Testament are types and shadows that point forward to and are fulfilled in Christ

## I. Intro - Christ As Focus & Fulfillment

- A. NT claims Christ as focus and fulfillment of OT
- B. How is this the case?
- C. Paul gives clue here – the idea of types/shadows
- D. What is typology? How do we use it?

## II. The Shadow and the Reality (2:16-17)

- A. Food laws, festivals, Sabbaths – important in OT
- B. Yet they were only shadows or types
- C. The reality/body and fulfillment is Christ

## III. Typology: Foreshadowing Christ & His Church

- A. Typology: Definition
- B. The importance of typology (quotes)
  - 1. Typology is alphabet of NT doctrine
  - 2. Messianic promises given in symbols as well
- C. The biblical use of typology
  - 1. Col 2:16-17 – OT practices shadow; Christ reality

- 2. Romans 5:14 – Adam a type of Christ
- 3. Heb 8:5; 9:23-24 – Tabernacle shadow of heavenly
- 4. Hebrews 10:1 – Law is shadow – not reality
- 5. 1 Cor 10:1-6 – Events examples/“types” for us

## IV. Responsible Interpretation of Types

- A. Warnings about how not to interpret types
  - 1. Typology has been misused in Church history
  - 2. Example: Epistle of Barnabas
- B. Relating the Type and the Fulfillment
  - 1. The correspondence is visible, not secretive
  - 2. Don't deny real history/value of type; start there
  - 3. Not every detail; main thrust of idea (shadow)
  - 4. Not 'spiritualized'; fulfillment is reality (Col 2:17)
  - 5. Not replacement; fulfillment (Matthew 5:17)
- C. Example of type & fulfillment: sapling to an oak

## V. Why Typology Matters Today

- A. God speaks to us in symbols as well as words
  - 1. To fully understand we must recognize types

2. The NT often assumes familiarity with types
- B. The unity of OT and NT – homosexuality, etc.
1. Many pit the OT against the NT
  2. Argument used in issue of homosexuality
  3. We must know how to interpret Word
- C. Israel, Jesus & the church – middle east situation
1. Many have not thought this issue through
  2. Major impact on how we view middle east
  3. Major impact on relations with Judaism (PBS)
- D. The Lord's Supper

## Typology: Seeing Christ in the Old Testament

Colossians 2:16-17

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Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Typology is the use of people, things, events, or institutions, which had real existence and significance in their own time, to foreshadow or prefigure later persons, things, events, or institutions, especially Christ, His Work, and His Church.

“The typology of the OT is the very alphabet of the language in which the doctrine of the NT is written.” (Sir Robert Anderson, quoted in Hartill, 48)

“The promises [regarding Messiah] were given not only verbally, but symbolically” (Vern Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*, 11)

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did **Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come**. Romans 5:14

<sup>5</sup> They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy** and **shadow** of **what is in heaven**. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain." Hebrews 8:5

<sup>23</sup> It was necessary, then, for the **copies of the heavenly things** to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter **a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself**, now to appear for us in God's presence. Hebrews 9:23-24

<sup>1</sup> **The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-- not the realities themselves**. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Hebrews 10:1

<sup>1</sup> For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.

<sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. <sup>6</sup> Now **these things occurred as examples** (literally “types”) to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

<sup>7</sup> Learn fully then, children of love, concerning all things, for Abraham, who first circumcised, did so looking forward in the spirit to Jesus, and had received the doctrines of three letters. <sup>8</sup> For it says, "And Abraham circumcised from his household eighteen men and three hundred." What then was the knowledge that was given to him? Notice that he first mentions the eighteen, and after a pause the three hundred. The eighteen is I (=ten) and H (=8) -- you have Jesus -- and because the cross was destined to have grace in the T he says "and three hundred." So he indicates Jesus in the two letters and the cross in the other. <sup>9</sup> He knows this who placed the gift of his teaching in our hearts. No one has heard a more excellent lesson from me, but I know that you are worthy.

*Epistle of Barnabas, 9:7-9*

- ✓ The correspondence is visible, not secretive
- ✓ Don't deny the real history and value of the type; start your interpretation there and find fulfillment in New Testament
- ✓ Importance is not in minute details; meaning is carried in the main thrust of the type (example of a shadow)
- ✓ The fulfillment is not 'spiritualized'; the fulfillment is reality (Colossians 2:17)
- ✓ The New Testament reality is not a replacement of the type; it is the fulfillment (Matthew 5:17)