

INTRODUCTION TO TYPOLOGY

Christ Prefigured in the OT

Introduction

□ **Goals**

- **Christ:** We want to observe, understand, and value the person and work of Jesus Christ through the lens of the OT.
 - **John Stott:** “The main objective of preaching is to expound Scripture so faithfully and relevantly that Jesus Christ is perceived in all his adequacy to meet human need... The preacher’s purpose is more than to unveil Christ; it is to unveil him that people are drawn to come to him and receive him.”
- **Sanctification:** We not only want to know who God is in the person of Jesus Christ, we need to grapple with what such an understanding of God implies for us today.

Introduction

□ **Goals**

- ▣ **History:** We want to observe the Triune God as being the Lord of History.
- ▣ **Bible:** We want to better understand the relationship between the Old and New Testament.
 - The fundamental relationship between the OT and NT is that of promise to fulfillment centered in God's redemptive plan accomplished through Jesus Christ.

Introduction

- ▣ ***How important is the OT to our understanding of Jesus?***

Introduction

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Acts 28:23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

Introduction

- ▣ ***How important is the OT to our understanding of Jesus?***
 - **Christopher Wright:** “The deeper you go into the Old Testament, the closer you come to the heart of Jesus.”
 - The OT points to Jesus in such a way that a failure to understand the OT results in a failure to understand who Jesus is and what he came to do.

Introduction

- ▣ There are multiple ways we could go about showing how the OT bears witness to Christ.
 - We could consider specific prophecies and their fulfillment.
 - We could seek to link Christ's pre-incarnate presence in the OT with such figures as the Angel of the Lord or even Yahweh himself.
 - We could trace themes across the OT and into the New, extending them to Christ and reinterpreting them in the light of Christ.

Typology Defined

- ▣ “Biblical typology involves an analogical correspondence in which earlier events, persons, and places in salvation history become patterns by which later events are interpreted.” (EDT 1222)

Typology Defined

- ▣ Types are “persons, institutions, and events of the Old Testament which are regarded as divinely established models or prerepresentations of corresponding realities in the New Testament salvation history.” (Walther Eichrodt)

Corresponding



OT Event = type

NT Event = antitype



A Method for Studying Typology

□ *Why study typology?*

- **The authority of Scripture.** The authors of the NT, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, connected certain OT events to Jesus.
- **The authority of Jesus.** Jesus frequently made use of typology.

A Method for Studying Typology

□ *Interpretive Principles*

- There must be an identifiable Scriptural pattern or correspondence between the OT type and the NT antitype.



A Method for Studying Typology

□ *Interpretive Principles*

- Seek to preserve the historicity of corresponding typological events.
- Move from the OT to the NT. Seek to understand the OT author's intended message for Israel before drawing parallels to Christ or the church.

A Method for Studying Typology

□ *Interpretive Principles*

- Keep to the central message of the text and be careful of searching for types in every detail of a passage.
- Be aware, not only of the continuity between a type and its antitype, but also the discontinuity.
- Look for intensification from type to antitype. Genuine types are marked by an escalation of the lesser to the greater; from the material to the spiritual; the earthly to the heavenly.

Basis of Typology

- ***History and the Word of God***

THE DA VINCI CODE



"The bible did not arrive by fax from heaven...The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book..."

DAN BROWN

Basis of Typology

□ *History and the Word of God*

- **False Dichotomy:** If the Bible did not magically fall from the clouds, then it is unreliable, uninspired, and without authority. If the Bible is connected to history and human beings it is false.
- But there is a third option?
 - **Divine Book:** Inspired, Inerrant, Authoritative, Universal
 - **Human Book:** Tied to human language, history, culture

Basis of Typology

- ***History and the Word of God***
 - Christianity is unique in that it is a faith rooted in history. **A denial of its historicity completely undermines the genuineness of its message.**

Basis of Typology

- ***Presuppositions of Typology***

- *God is the Lord of history.* God sovereignly is arranging and directing events and people with his own purpose and goal in mind.

Basis of Typology

□ ***Presuppositions of Typology***

- *God reveals himself through history.* God doesn't just reveal himself in words, but in and through historical events and actions. Typology is ultimately about how God orchestrates redemptive history in such a way that it points to who he is and what he has done to save us.

Basis of Typology

- ***Presuppositions of Typology***

- *God orders history in such a way that it points beyond itself.* There is a prophetic aspect to certain historical events and patterns that indicate how God will yet work in history.

Basis of Typology

□ ***Presuppositions of Typology***

- *History is redemptive in purpose and in design.*
“God is working in history toward the goal of his gracious saving purpose that culminates in Christ.”
- *Christ is at the center of salvation history and revelation.* All history and revelation culminates in Jesus Christ. As Ephesians 1:10 says, God’s plan is to unite all things in Christ.