

**Date** : 17 December 2023  
**Theme** : Christ in the Old Testament  
**Topic** : **Christ in the Types**

**Key verse** : Hebrews 8:5 "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".

## **Introduction:**

We've seen so far how Christ was in the Old Testament – His presence and also His festivals. His prophets also foretold His coming with over 300 prophecies all fulfilled by Christ. The New Testament reveals to us that people, objects and events of the Old Testament, are types of Christ.

Today we shall explore the types of Christ in the Old Testament. How they were intentionally planned by God to reveal His Son, the Christ of unmatched superiority.

## **1. What is "type of Christ"?**

### **1.1. "Types" are copies and shadows of the real thing.**

- Hebrews 8:5 says that the Old Testament Tabernacle and related priests and sacrifices are copies and shadows of what is real and eternal in heaven. These are unmatched superior to the copies and shadows. Copies and shadows are temporal for us on earth. Without the real thing, there are no copies and shadows.

### **1.2. How are the types identified?**

#### **a. Types are identified by Jesus Himself.**

##### **Jesus identified Himself as Manna.**

- When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the Lord provided manna, the bread from heaven for their food and also provided water from the rock.
- In John 6:30-35, Jesus was speaking with the crowd of Jews who asked Jesus to perform a miraculous sign to prove that He is the Messiah, and said that the Lord provided manna for their ancestors. Jesus said that the bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then He said "I am the Bread of Life"

#### **b. Types are identified throughout the Old and New Testament.**

This is because of the close similarities between the types and Jesus.

##### **So the Jews were able to identify Jesus as "the Prophet" (like Moses)**

- In John 6:14, after Jesus performed the miracle to feed the 5,000 by multiplying the 5 bread and 2 fishes, the people identified the sign and said, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."
- "The Prophet" was prophesied by Moses before the Israelites entered the promised land. As he gave his farewell message in the book of Deuteronomy, he said "the Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you ... You must listen to him." Deuteronomy 18:15.
- So over 1,500 years, the Israelites were looking out for the Prophet like Moses whom God will raise up for them. Moses is therefore a type of Christ,
- But Jesus is far superior because it was commanded that they must listen to Him without exception. In addition, both Moses and Jesus mediated the covenant between the people and God, but Jesus mediated a better covenant. Hebrews 8:6.

#### **c. The purpose of the types is to reveal the Person of Christ and the Plan of Redemption**

- The types reveal Christ in 2 main areas.
  - Firstly, the person or attributes of Christ. Who is Christ? What is He like?
  - Secondly, God's plan of redemption for our sin and death. How will He do that?
- Recognizing the types help us to see the magnitude of the greatness of Jesus.
  - After Jesus explained all the Scriptures about Himself to the 2 disciples along the road to Emmaus, the 2 disciples' hearts burned within them, filled with hope and excitement.

## 2. Types that reveal the Person of Christ

### 2.1. Jacob's ladder – Jesus is the way to Heaven.

- Jacob dreamt of a ladder up to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it. In that dream, the Lord stood above and gave him the promise of Abraham – to bless him and his descendent, to be with him, and all nations will be blessed through him. Genesis 28:10-22.
- So significant to Jacob that when he woke up, he called the place “Bethel” (the house of God) and made a covenant with God.

#### How is the Jacob's ladder a type of Christ?

- In John 1: 51, when Jesus first met Nathanel, Nathanel declared that Jesus was the Son of God, King of Israel. Jesus replied “... you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Jesus was referring Jacob's dream of the ladder to heaven, speaking of Himself that He is the ladder.
- Jesus is the only One by whom heaven and earth are united, and the Way to heaven, which the ladder was.

### 2.2. Tabernacle curtain's 4 colours – Jesus is King, Suffering Servant, Perfect Man and Son of God

- After the Lord established the covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai, the Lord instructed them to build a Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was God's tent, where God dwelt among the Israelites. It was also where the Israelites entered to offer sacrifices and worship.
- The Lord instructed them to make curtains as entrance into the tabernacle. These curtains were to have the 4 colours – purple, red, white and blue.

#### How are the 4 colours a type of Christ?

- Jesus said, “I am the gate” (John 10:7). As the tabernacles curtains are entrance into the tabernacle of God, Jesus is the gate and entrance into heaven.
- The 4 colours of the curtains represent the meaning which matches exactly the identity of Christ in the 4 gospels. The 4 colours point towards who the coming Christ would be – that He would be king, the suffering servant, the perfect man and the Son of God. This was exactly who Jesus was.

New Testament		Old Testament	
Gospel	Identity of Christ	Colour	Represents
Matthew	<u>King</u>	Purple	Royalty
Mark	<u>Suffering Servant</u>	Red	Sacrifice
Luke	<u>Perfect Man</u>	White	Righteousness
John	<u>Son of God</u>	Blue	Deity

### 2.3. Melchizedek – Jesus is High Priest and King forever

Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. After Abraham defeated the kings who captured his nephew Lot, Melchizedek came to meet him and bless him. Then Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:18-20)

#### How is Melchizedek a type of Christ?

- Psalm 110 is a prophecy of the coming Christ. Psalm 110:4 says, “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek”.
- Hebrews 7 says that Jesus is the prophesied “priest forever in the order of Melchizedek”. Jesus is the perfect high priest who has entered into the Most Holy Place, mediated and made the atonement for us with His own blood, torn the veil down so we are also able to enter into the Most Holy Place through Him, into the presence of God.
- The priesthood of Christ superior to the Levitical priesthood in 3 ways and became the guarantor of a better covenant with God.

Christ	High priest
Perfect and sinless	Sinful. Need to make sacrifice first for himself.
Eternal	Temporal. Priesthood stops when the high priest dies
Sacrificed Himself once and for all	Sacrificed animals continually. Because it is impossible for their blood to take away sins

### 3. Types that reveal the Plan of Redemption

#### 3.1. Adam – Jesus is the “last Adam” who gives us eternal life.

Romans 5:14 (NKJV) “Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come”.

- Adam was a type of Christ. They are both from God and without biological father.
  - But their comparison is more of a contrast than similarity, so Adam is more of an anti-type.
- Adam became a “living being” while Jesus is called the “last Adam” who became a “life-giving spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:45).
- “One man” (Adam) sinned, and all mankind faced eternal death. But because “one man” (Jesus) died, all can receive eternal life. (Romans 5:17).

#### 3.2. Noah’s Ark – Jesus saves those who are in Him.

1 Peter 3:21 (NIV) “and this water (flood) symbolizes baptism that now saves you. also ... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

- Noah’s ark was a type of Christ that’s related to baptism.
  - The resurrection of Jesus is required for us to be saved. If Jesus did not resurrect, we are all still dead in our sins. (1 Corinthians 15:14-20)
  - It is through baptism in Jesus that we are saved because baptism unites us with Jesus in His death and resurrection. Through baptism, we are resurrected with Jesus. (Romans 6:5)
- The Lord instructed Noah to build an ark to save his family from the worldwide flood.
- Both the ark and Jesus dealt with the death judgement on the whole world.
- Both the ark and Jesus are the only way to be saved.
- However, Jesus is superior to the ark because He saves for all times from the beginning of creation to the end of times. While the ark saves those only at that time.

#### 3.3. Passover Lamb – Jesus is the Passover lamb, whose blood delivered us from death.

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) “Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

- The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus.
  - It must be male without defect. Jesus was a male and without sin.
  - Its bones must not be broken (Exodus 12:46). When Jesus was crucified, the Romans did not break His legs (John 19:33).
  - It must be killed at 3pm. Jesus died on the cross at 3pm
- God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt after sending the 10<sup>th</sup> plague on Egypt. The 10<sup>th</sup> plague was the death of all firstborn males in Egypt. God provided a way for the Israelites’ firstborn males to escape death, with the blood of a Passover lamb over the door of their houses.
- Jesus, the Messiah, is our Passover Lamb. He took the sin of the whole world upon Himself and He willingly became our sacrificial lamb.

#### 3.4. Bronze Snake – Jesus gives eternal life through the cross.

John 3:14,15 (NIV) - Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him..

- Jesus presented Himself as the Son of Man who must be lifted up and looked on for us to truly believe and be saved.
- The Lord instructed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole, so that the Israelites can be healed of the venomous snake bites that God sent to punish them for their stubborn complaining and grumbling.
- The Israelites were poisoned by the snakes. Mankind is poisoned by sin. Both leading to death.

#### 3.5. Jonah – Jesus died and rose again 3 days after, enabling us to die and resurrect with Him.

Matthew 12:38-41 (NKJV) - For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Jonah was almost dead in the belly of the great fish and came out alive after 3 days. Jesus died, was buried and came out alive after 3 days.
- They both preached to their enemies and those who repented are saved from death.
- However, Jonah was the unwilling party to go to the Ninevites and not desired in their salvation.
- While Jesus willingly took up the cup of death and desired that none should perish.

#### 4. Joseph, a type of Christ

Joseph, the great grandson of Abraham has many similarities to Jesus from beginning of his life, his work, his suffering, his goal, and to his glorification.

Joseph	Jesus
Beloved of his father	Beloved of the Father
Was rich and became a poor servant	Was rich in heaven and became poor on earth
Rejected by his brothers to rule over them	Rejected by the Jews to rule over them
Ultimately his brothers bowed to him	Ultimately every knee will bow to Him
Betrayed by his brothers	Betrayed by Judas and his apostles
Sold for the price of a slave in pieces of silver	Sold the price of a slave for 30 pieces of silver
Accused by Potiphar's wife	Accused by his people
Imprisoned and left for dead	Crucified, dead and buried
Delivered from death in prison	Delivered from death in the tomb
Rose to highest authority	Rose to the right hand of God. Given all authority
Great wisdom to govern and prepare for the famine	All wisdom to rule and planned for our redemption
Saved those who came to him and those from other nations	Saved those who came to him and sent his disciples to all nations.
Wept over his brothers	Wept over the sins of the Jews
Forgave his brothers	Forgave those who crucified Him and us while we were still sinners and his enemies.
A prophet who interpreted dreams	The Prophet
God planned his suffering to save others	God planned his suffering to save the world.

#### Application

The emphasis and central focus of the bible in both the Old and New Testament is Christ. He is the Almighty, Lord and Holy God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

He is also the Messiah King who has planned even before the beginning of time for our redemption. He who left His Heavenly glory, entered the world and through great persecution, and provided for our redemption not with created things, but by His very own self.

1. How does the above teaching help me to worship Jesus as Lord?
2. How would this knowledge of Jesus change the way:
  - a. I celebrate the coming Christmas?
  - b. I live for Jesus in 2024?