

Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together

Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures Lesson #2

Introduction

I. Our course series is titled, *Connections: How the Old and New Testaments Fit Together*.

A. Our first lesson was titled, *Understanding the Christian Scriptures*.

1. It explained that the Christian Scriptures have two parts:
 - a. The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), which contains prophecies about the Messiah (the Christ)
 - b. The New Testament, which claims Jesus is the Messiah told of in the Old Testament
2. The Old and New Testaments are connected and fit together because:
 - a. The Old Testament prophecies tell of Jesus the Messiah.
 - b. Without these prophecies, we would not know about the promised Messiah.

B. This lesson is titled, *Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures*.

1. There are two ways the Old Testament tells of Jesus Christ (the Messiah).
 - a. Written **words** that prophetically foretell Christ.
 - b. Historical **events** that symbolically foreshadow Christ.
2. These Old Testament events form patterns that are repeated in the New Testament.
 - a. These repeated patterns connect the Old and New Testament.
 - b. These repeated patterns are what this lesson will be about.

Body

I. Let's start with an example of these repeated patterns.

A. One of the most famous verses in *the* New Testament is John 3:16. **(1. John 3:16)**

1. This verse was spoken by Jesus and is found in the middle of a larger paragraph. **(2. John 3:14-17)**
2. The phrase, "Son of Man" was a name Jesus often called himself and it referred to the Messiah. **(3. Daniel 7:13-14)**
3. In these verses, Jesus draws a parallel between himself and an event described in the *Old Testament*. **(4. Numbers 21:4-9)**

- B. Now, let's analyze the *Old Testament* event. (See the illustration by Gustave Dore' titled "The Brazen Serpent" provided at the end of this document.)
1. In Hebrew tradition, the serpent is symbolic of sin and death. (Think of the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent in the Garden of Eden.)
 2. The lethal serpent, symbolic of sin and death, was hung on a pole.
 3. If the people, dying from the snake bites, looked to the hung serpent, they would live.
- C. Let's study how looking at the hung serpent explains how Jesus Christ saves us.
1. The phrase "lifted up" was a polite way of saying "crucified."
Jesus was saying Moses "crucified" the serpent. **(5. John 12:32-34)**
 2. The hung serpent in the wilderness is like a spiritual x-ray of what Jesus accomplished on his cross. Our Christ took the sin and death from the serpent onto himself, executed it with himself when he was crucified and then transformed it all into new life by his resurrection.
 3. When we, who are dying from the bite of the serpent, look in belief to our Christ, who conquered our enemy in his death and resurrection, then our death, along with his, is transformed into life.

II. Let's examine these repeated patterns in the Old and New Testament

- A. A person, event, or institution in the Old Testament that foreshadows something about Jesus in the New Testament
1. Literary structure of the pattern:
 - a. "As it was with _____, so it is with Christ." As _____, so Christ .
 - b. As Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.
 2. More examples of the literary pattern
 - a. As Jonah, so the Son of Man **(6. Matthew 12:38-40; Jonah 1:17)**
 - b. As Adam, so Christ - A reverse pattern. Christ reverses Adam's influence. **(7. Romans 5:17-19, 21)**
- B. Sometimes the event pattern structure is there without the exact literary structure.
1. Abraham offering Isaac **(8. Hebrews 11:17; John 3:16)**
 - a. As Abraham, so God the Father
 - b. Other repeated patterns in the Abraham/Isaac story.
(9. Genesis 22:6-8; John 1:29) (10. Genesis 22:13; 1 Corinthians 15:3)
(11. Genesis 22:1-2; 2 Chronicles 3:1)

2. The Passover **(12. Exodus 12:1-13 and 1 Corinthians 5:7)**

a. As the Passover sacrifice, so Christ our sacrifice.

b. Other repeated patterns in the Passover event

(13. Exodus 12: 43- 46; Psalm 34:20; John 19:31-36)

3. The Levitical Law

a. Festivals and Sabbath days **(14. Leviticus 23:21-34; Colossians 2:16-17)**

b. Sacrifices **(15. Leviticus 16:3-15; Hebrews 9:11; Hebrews 10:1-12)**

C. This pattern structure is given the name “type” in the New Testament.

1. As Adam, so Christ

a. Called “type” in the NASB **(16. Romans 5:14 NASB)**

b. Called “figure” In the KJV **(17. Romans 5:14 KJV)**

c. Called “pattern” in the NIV **(18. Romans 5:14 NIV)**

2. The word in Greek is *τύπος* (Transliteration - *typos*)

a. Where we get our printing term “type” - typewriter, repeated pattern.

b. The word means: stamp, shape, style, resemblance, model, fashion, figure, manner, pattern. (*Strong’s Concordance Dictionary* - G 5179)

III. The scholarly study of types is called typology

A. A type is an historical event in the Old Testament whose pattern symbolically foreshadows an historical event in the New Testament.

1. The Old Testament event is called the “type.” The New Testament event is called the “antitype.”

a. The prefix “anti” means corresponding or representative counterpart. (*Strong’s Concordance Dictionary* - G 499)

b. In types, both sides of the comparison are historical events.

2. Some confuse typology with allegory.

a. In allegory the symbolic stories are not necessarily historical events. (Example: Alice in Wonderland is an allegory about British politics.)

b. Some believe the Old Testament is allegorical and the Old Testament stories are not historical events.

c. Typology claims both the type and antitype are historical events.

B. Typology requires divine control of historical events.

1. The Old Testament includes events orchestrated by God to prefigure His plan to reveal Jesus Christ.

a. Old Testament writers were unaware of God’s ultimate plan.

b. Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to understand his presence in the Hebrew Scriptures. **(19. Luke 24:44-47)**

2. Approaches to typology
 - a. Some accept only types mentioned in the New Testament.
(20. 1 Peter 3:20-21)
 - b. Others accept obvious types not mentioned in the New Testament such as Joseph in Genesis 37-50.
 - c. Christ in the New Testament is greater than the type in the Old Testament that prefigures him. As _____ , so **CHRIST** .

Conclusion

I. In Review:

- A. This lesson is titled, Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures.
 1. There are two ways the Old Testament tells of Jesus Christ.
 - a. In the first lesson we studied the Old Testament **words** that foretell Christ which are called **prophecies**.
 - b. In this lesson we studied the Old Testament historical **events** that symbolically foreshadow Christ which are called **types**.
 2. Types connect the Old and New Testaments and make them fit together.
 - a. An Old Testament historical event prefigures an historical event in the New Testament that further develops it.
 - b. Types follow the pattern of: As _____ , so **Christ**.
- B. Examples of types in the Christian Scriptures.
 1. John 3:14-16 presents the serpent in the wilderness as prefiguring the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
 2. Other examples: Jonah, Adam, Abraham, the Passover, the Levitical festivals and sacrifices.

II. The significance of types.

- A. Types require a supernatural God who orchestrates the events of history to foreshadow his plan to reveal Christ.
 1. The repeated patterns are undeniable in the Christian Scriptures.
 2. Recognizing these repeated patterns can strengthen our belief in our supernatural God.
- B. God has been directing history all along to provide our Messiah, Jesus Christ.
 1. What God has been doing in the past, He has revealed to us in the present and He will complete it in the future.
 2. God has been orchestrating all this to provide your personal destiny with Him.
(24. 1 Peter 1:20-21)

III. Closing: Prayer of thanksgiving.

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Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures

Lesson #2

Scriptures to Read During the Lesson

(1. John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJB)

(2. John 3:14-17) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJB)

(3. Daniel 7:13-14) "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." (NIV)

(4. Numbers 21:4-9) They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. (NIV)

(5. John 12:32-34) "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" (NASB)

(6. Matthew 12:38-40; Jonah 1:17)

[Matthew 12:38-40] Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and [yet] no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (NASB)

[Jonah 1:17] And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights. (NASB)

(7. Romans 5:17-21) For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous...so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)

(8. Hebrews 11:17; John 3:16)

[Hebrews 11:17] By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son], (NKJB)

[John 3:16] "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJB)

(9. Genesis 22:6-8; John 1:29)

[Genesis 22:6-8] Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. (NASB)

[John 1:29] The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NASB)

(10. Genesis 22:13; 1 Corinthians 15:3)

[Genesis 22:13] Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind [him] a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. (NASB)

[1Corinthians 15:3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (NASB)

(11. Genesis 22:1-2; 2 Chronicles 3:1)

[Genesis 22:1-2] Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." (NASB)

[2 Chronicles 3:1] Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah... (NASB)

(12. Exodus 12:1-13; 1 Corinthians 5:7)

[Exodus 12:3-14] "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household... The animals you choose must be . . . without defect . . . Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast . . . it is the LORD's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals . . . The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance. (NIV)

[1Corinthians 5:7] ...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (NIV)

(13. Exodus 12: 43- 46; Psalm 34:20; John 19:31-36)

[Exodus 12:43-46] The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover meal... Do not break any of the bones. (NIV)

[Psalm 34:20] [H]e protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. (NIV)

[John 19:32] The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. . . . These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," (NIV)

(14. Leviticus 23:2-34; Colossians 2:16-17)

[Leviticus 23:2-34 NIV] "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. . . . The LORD's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month... On the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Festival of Unleavened Bread begins;... "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. . . . On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD's Festival of Tabernacles begins . . . (NIV)

[Colossians 2:16-17] Therefore do not let anyone judge you...with regard to a religious festival... or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (NIV)

(15. Leviticus 16:3-15; Hebrews 9:11; Hebrews 10:1-12)

[Leviticus 16:3-15 NASB] "Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. . . . Then Aaron shall offer the goat. . . . and make it a sin offering. . . . Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. (NASB)

[Hebrews 9:11-12] But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. (NIV)

[Hebrews 10:10-12 NIV] [W]e have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, (NIV)

(16. Romans 5:14 NASB) Nevertheless death reigned . . . even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

(17. Romans 5:14 KJV) Nevertheless death reigned . . . even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

(18. Romans 5:14 NIV) Nevertheless, death reigned . . . even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

(19. Luke 24:44-47) He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (NIV)

(20. 1 Peter 3:20-21) . . . in the days of Noah, while [the] ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism . . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

Type

Antitype

As being in the ark through the water saved Noah, so being in Christ through baptism saves us.

(21. 1 Peter 1:20-21) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (NASB)

Understanding the Patterns in the Christian Scriptures Lesson #2

Suggested Readings:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I Corinthians 15:21-22 and 45 | 6. John 1:29 |
| 2. I Corinthians 10:1-11 | 7. Hebrews 9:6-15 |
| 3. Hebrews 8:3-6 | 8. I Peter 1:18-21 |
| 4. Hebrews 9:24 | 9. Hebrews 1:1-3 |
| 5. Hebrews 10:1-10 | |

Do an Internet search for:

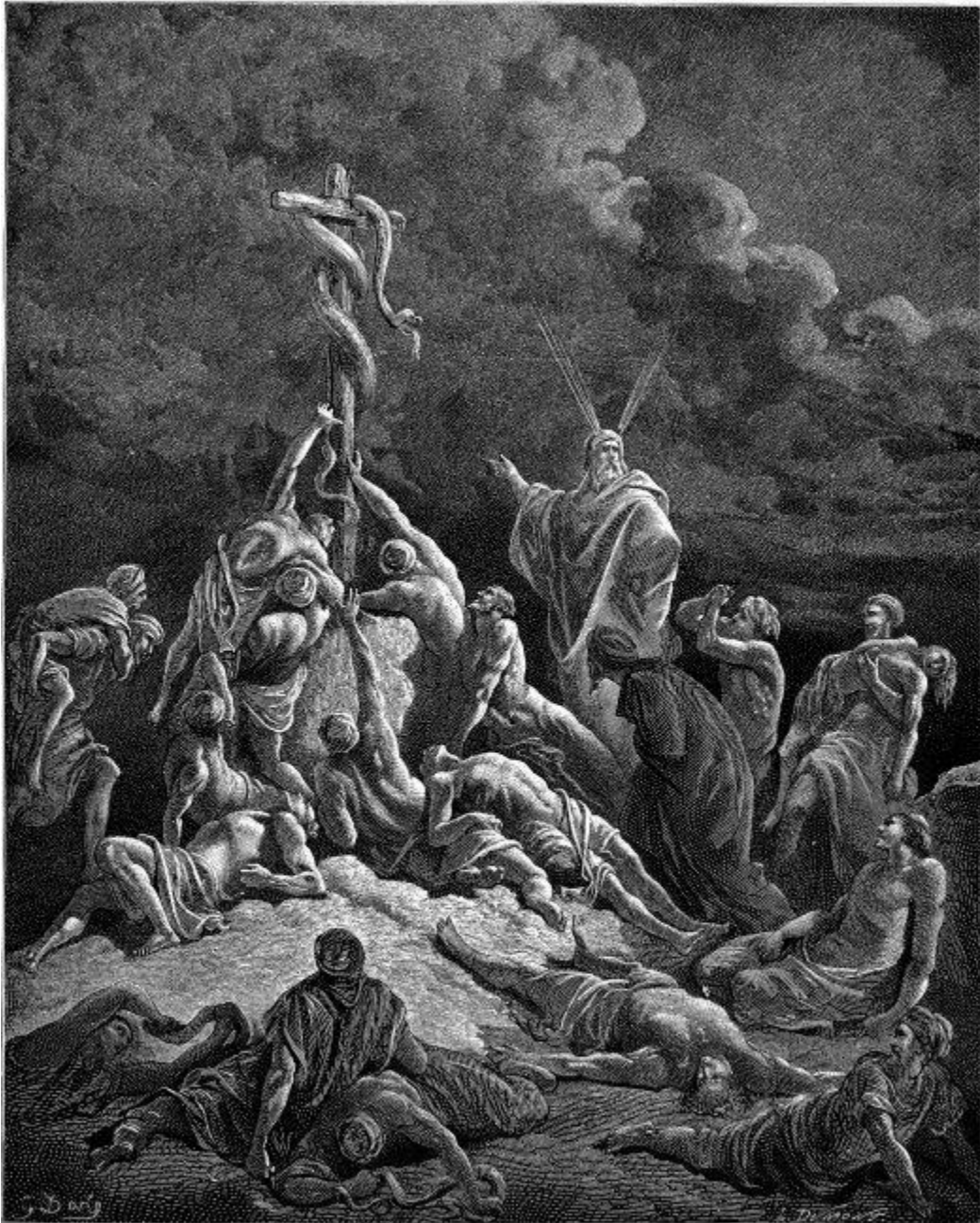
1. Biblical typology
2. Paupers' Bible
3. Stained glass typology

Important books about typology:

1. Leonhard Goppelt. *Typos: the Typological Interpretation of the Old Testament in the New.*
2. Patrick Fairbairn. *The Typology of Scripture.*
3. Richard B. Hays. *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels.*
4. Richard B. Hays. *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness*

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"The Brazen Serpent" by Gustave Doré



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Num 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.