



How to Study the Bible

The Study of a Type

I. REASONS FOR STUDYING TYPES

A. The Father's Care for Typology

1. When God gave the details of the law, He was not only giving details of the law, but also of Christ (Hebrews 10:1).
2. When God gave the details of the tabernacle, He was also giving details of a heavenly temple (Hebrews 8:5).

B. The Son's Care for Typology

1. On the road to Emmaus, the Lord began at Moses and expounded unto the disciples those things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27).
2. The Lord Jesus often used typology when describing Himself.
 - a. Christ as a physician (Matthew 9:12)
 - b. Christ as a bridegroom (Matthew 25:6)
 - c. Christ as a Lamb (John 1:29)
 - d. Christ compared to the serpent on a pole (John 3:14)
 - e. Christ as bread (John 6:50)
 - f. Christ as a door (John 10:9)
 - g. Christ as a shepherd (John 10:11)
 - h. Christ as the arm of the Lord (John 12:38)
 - i. Christ as a vine (John 15:1)
 - j. Christ as a mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - k. Christ as a surety (Hebrews 7:22)
 - l. Christ as a testator (Hebrews 9:16)
 - m. Christ as a Lion (Revelation 5:5)

C. The Typology Often Spoke of Christ

1. When one individual loves another, he desires to know all that he can about that person. When that love is deep enough in the absence of the loved one, the one who loves might study a picture the one loved in order to get a better understanding of his or her features.
2. The types or pictures in scripture often point to Christ.
 - a. The type may demonstrate Christ's work, His person, or both; yet it will ultimately yield some great truth concerning our Saviour.
 - b. God included these types and figures in scripture for a forward glimpse to those who lived at the time the type was given, and for a backward look for those of us alive later.
 - c. If one truly loves the Saviour, he will take the time to study these types and learn their intended lessons.



II. A TYPE DEFINED

A. Properly Defined

1. Definition: a *type* is a divinely designed object lesson or picture that anticipates a later truth known as the *antitype*.
2. A type will in some, but not all, characteristics picture another person or thing. If it were perfect, it would cease to merely be a type.
3. A type will almost always, if not always, fall short of the person/thing it pictures.
4. God Himself points out some of the typology in scripture (John 3:14-15; Romans 5:14-19; Hebrews 9:8-12; Hebrews 10:1).

B. Improperly Defined

1. A type is never to be considered to be the ultimate literal interpretation unless directly led by the scripture.
2. A type is not to be used to teach some doctrine that is not otherwise taught in scripture.
3. Types point to something in the future. However, they are not strictly prophecy. Prophecy clearly predicts future events. Types picture them in such a way that the design can be seen only after the fulfillment (the antitype) occurs.
4. Bible students disagree on how far to develop types.
 - a. Some only use types that are identified as such in scripture.
 - b. Others find typology in every detail of an Old Testament passage.
 - c. Some of this typology can become quite speculative. One way to help in safely identifying types is to classify types according to clarity.
 - d. Though Bible students will still disagree on how to classify the various types, the very act of classifying will help us put varying weights to different interpretations.

C. Classes of Types

1. People (Adam, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, etc.)
2. Events (deliverance of Noah in the ark, redemption from Egypt, passing through the Red Sea)
3. Things (tabernacle, laver, lamb, oil, Jordan River, city of refuge)
4. Institutions (priesthood, kingdom, the Sabbath)

III. WHERE TO BEGIN

A. Finding a Type

1. Declared by **direct statement**: Look for places in scripture where the Bible boldly states that one thing is a picture of another (Hebrews 10:1).



2. Declared by **comparative terminology**: Look for comparison and contrast in the scripture that might denote one person/thing as a type of another person/thing. Look for the words *like* or *as*.
3. **Not declared**: There are some great types in scripture that are never declared to be types, yet the overwhelming evidence is that one person/thing is a picture of another person/thing.

B. Listing the Details

1. List all of the details of the original person or thing that you are studying.
 - a. Thing
 - (1) Does it have given dimensions?
 - (2) Does it have color?
 - (3) What parts make up the whole?
 - (4) What purpose did this thing have?
 - (5) Did the instructions for its construction come directly from God?
 - (6) Describe the object in detail.
 - (7) What actions are done with or against this object?
 - b. Person
 - (1) What is the name of the person?
 - (2) What are the traits of the person?
 - (3) What are the physical characteristics of the person?
 - (4) Who were the parents?
 - (5) In what great events was the person involved?
 - (6) What is the connotation of the person in scripture?
2. List details of the person/thing being pictured that coincide with the original person/thing.

IV. DELVING INTO THE TYPE

A. Comparable Types

1. When studying a type, the student must find all of the details that are alike between the type and the person/thing that is being pictured.
2. List these things side by side with verse references to prove the connection.

B. Contrasted Types

1. When studying a type or picture within the scripture, it will almost always, if not always, be the case that some part of the type does not match what it is representing.
2. List the parts that do not match and make notations as to why they do not match. Many times this failure on the part of the type further magnifies that to which it is trying to point.