

The Tabernacle: Drawing Close to God
A Definition and Examples of Types
 John 3:14,15

Tonight we begin a new series on the Tabernacle. In order to understand the significance this particular subject, it is important to know the nature and use of types in Scripture. First I will define “types” and then I will illustrate them.

I. A Definition of Types

“Type” comes from the Greek word “tupos” which has at its root the meaning “to beat or to strike.”

- (1). A type is **an impression** left after something has been struck. (See John 20:25).
 The impression tells you something about the object that left it, but is not the object itself.
 Thus the “type” tells you something about the antitype (the object to which it refers).
- (2). A type is **an image** that represents something else. (See Acts 7:43).
 Whereas the pagans worshipped idols representing their gods, we worship the God represented by the type.
- (3). A type is gives **an instruction** to us regarding eternal, spiritual truths.
 (See I Corinthians 10:6 and I Corinthians 10:11).
 A type is simply an Old Testament picture of Christ’s person and work using historical people, objects or events.

There are also words used in Scripture that are synonyms to the word “type.”

Shadow --- Hebrews 8:5; Hebrews 10:1; Romans 12:12.

Pattern --- Hebrews 8:5; Hebrews 9:23.

Sign --- Matthew 12:39.

The antitype is also called “a body” (Colossians 2:17) as compared to a shadow, and it is also called “things in heaven” (Hebrews 9:23) as compared to “things on earth.”

II. Some Illustration of Types

There are generally two classification of types --- prophetic (visions) and historical (people, events, objects).

Prophetic types:

- (1). The vision of Jacob ---- (Genesis 28:12,13 and John 1:51).
- (2). The vision of Joseph --- (Genesis 27:5 and Genesis 27:8-10).
- (3). The vision of Daniel --- (Daniel 7:3 illustrating the four great empires; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome).
- (4). The vision of Pharaoh --- (Genesis 41 including verses 25, 47, and 54).
- (5). The visions of Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Zechariah and Ezekiel could also be included

Historical types:

I will give you a list of five historical types though I could list probably a hundred.

- (1). The prophet Jonah swallowed in the whales belly (Jonah 1:17).
 A type of Jesus Christ being laid in the tomb for three days (Matthew 12:40; Luke 11:29).
- (2). The brazen serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness (Numbers 21:8,9).
 A type of Jesus Christ being lifted up on the cross and healing believers of sin (John 3:14,15).
- (3). The sacrifices of the levitical priesthood in the Old Testament (Leviticus).
 A type of Jesus Christ in His person and work (Illustration of the scapegoat John 1:29, I Peter 2:24).
- (4). King Solomon, son of David, as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Samuel 7:12, I Chronicles 17:11).
 A type of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:5, Acts 2:20, and Acts 13:22,23).
- (5). Joseph in many of the events of his life (see additional handout for details).

Wherever the Old Testament points to the grace of God, redemption, blessings of mercy or destruction of God’s enemies, the person of Christ can be seen in type form. The type is never to be the sum and substance our doctrine, but rather it is to point us to the clear and direct teaching of the Word of God.

Next week, we begin our examination on the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and how it points us to the person and work of Jesus Christ.