

Full Scope of Scripture: Keys to Understanding and Interpreting scripture - Part 2b

- From our last two keys, we have come to know that;
 - For us to gain knowledge and come to the correct understanding of the scriptures, we have to be able to compare scripture with scripture, a little from here and a little from there and of course remembering to keep context in view (*1 Cor.2:13; Isaiah 28:9,10*)
 - This comparison of scriptures has to be in all the scriptures throughout the Old and the New Testaments, recognizing that all Scripture is God-breathed. (*2 Tim.3:16,17*)
Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Remember that Moses in this verse is referring to the writings (Books written by Moses.
 - For Jesus to expound to the disciples concerning Himself, in all the scriptures, He begun at Moses and we must always begin where God begun. In so doing, He had to call out the things that pictured Him, and His work bringing us to the next key of Types and Antitypes.
- A Christian can read Old Testament history from one end to the other and never see the person and work of Christ within that history and this is where now this key comes into use.

Key # 3: Understanding Types and Antitypes

- This is one of the most precious Keys that God has provided, in order to easily and rightly interpret and understand scripture. Scripture NOT ONLY deals with a completely accurate history of certain events surrounding God's dealings with the earth, angels, and man, BUT Biblical history has been recorded after such a fashion that it is **highly typical** as well. There are inherent *types* (seen in past history – seen in the OT) pointing to *antitypes* (seen in later history – seen in the NT). “Prophecy & Prophecy fulfilled”
 - ✓ A type is therefore something that points to something else, which is called the antitype.
Note: This word ‘antitype’ should not be seen in a negative sense! (Please read *1Pet 3:21*)
 - ✓ A ‘type’ is a person, place, thing, or institution, which points to something beyond itself – a prophecy. The ‘antitype’ is the fulfillment of the type – the fulfillment of that prophecy.
 - ✓ A type is a superficial picture leading to a deeper meaning in the bible. It's a divine illustration of some truth or doctrine which is foreshadowed. It's a detailed historic account pointing to a detailed future or prophetic account.
 - ✓ A type is simply an “example” and the antitype is the “reality itself.” (A shadow and its image)
 - ✓ Historical events in the OT took place in order to illustrate, typify or symbolize great truths that we can learn from. The OT can be seen as containing object lessons (types) that find their explanations in the NT as antitypes. That is why both testaments need to be studied together.
- * All these preceding points mean the same thing, but I have put it down in several ways to widen our understanding.
- Scriptural support – about types and antitypes:

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1 Cor.10:6 *Now these things became our examples to the intent that we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.....***11** *Now all these things happened to them as examples and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

- ✓ The word ‘examples’ in vs6 & vs11 is from the Greek word “tupos”, where we get the English word “types”.
- ✓ This passage is referring to the first generation of Israel that came out of Egypt. The things that happened to them from Egypt to the land of their inheritance became our examples (Types). We can learn great truths from their experiences as we sojourn on to our heavenly inheritance.
- Rom.15:4** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*
- ✓ God brought things to pass after a certain fashion within the history of the earth, angels, and man so that at a later date, He could draw from them in order to teach His people “deep things” by relating **types** to the corresponding **antitypes**.
- ✓ Thus, God draws NOT from history per se BUT from the spiritual content set forth in the historic accounts — the great spiritual lessons drawn from history, centrally those derived from types pointing to corresponding antitypes.
- ✓ Anyone can understand facts within revealed Biblical history (saved or unsaved man). This would pertain to “the letter” of the matter. But ONLY saved man can go beyond “the letter” to “the spirit” of the matter (**II Cor.3:6-16**). ONLY the saved can understand the spiritual lessons drawn from history. ONLY the saved can look within Biblical history and see spiritual content (**I Cor.2:12-16**). For the unsaved, things beyond the simple, historical facts are completely meaningless. They can neither see these things nor know them. Spiritually, they are dead; and these things are “spiritually discerned.” They can view Scripture ONLY from a “natural [‘soulical’]” standpoint (**I Cor.2:14**).

☐ Here are some examples of how we can use this key;

a) Adam was a type of Christ.

Rom.5:14 *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

Q. From this verse, whom do you think Adam is a type of?

1Cor.15:45 *And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit... **47** The first man was of the earth, made[i] of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

- ✓ The preceding verses compare Adam as the first man, who became a living being to Christ, the last Adam, Who was/is a life-giving spirit; and the first man (Adam) who was of the earth to Jesus, the second Man, Who is the Lord from heaven. The comparisons cannot be missed unless one chooses to do so.

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- ✓ One of the first types in the Old Testament can be seen in Genesis chapter two (what about Gen.1, 3 and so forth?). Adam, therefore, being a type of Christ, Eve (the Woman) would be a type of the Bride of Christ. Christ and His bride can therefore be seen in the person of Adam and his bride. (Could you have ever thought that Adam can foreshadow Christ?)
- ✓ This is just one example that explains why Jesus had to begin at Moses while He expounded about Himself to His disciples.

b) Abel was a type of Christ.

- ✓ **Name** - Abel name signifies vanity and emptiness which foreshadowed the Lord Jesus who “made Himself of no reputation,” literally “emptied Himself” [*Phil. 2:7; Isa 53:3*]
- ✓ **Calling** - By calling, Abel was a shepherd, and it was in his shepherd character he brought an offering to God, namely, the firstlings of his flock, speaking of the Good Shepherd who offered an acceptable offering of Himself to God. [*John 10:11, 14*]
- ✓ **Offering** - The offering, which Abel brought to God, is termed an “excellent” one [*Gen 4:4; Heb.11:4; 12:24*] and as such it pointed forward to the precious blood of Christ. Just as Abel’s offering was accepted by God, God “testifying” His approval of it; God publicly witnessed to His acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice when He raised Him from the dead [*Acts 2:32*].
- ✓ **Speaking offering** - Abel’s offering still speaks to God - “by it he being dead, yet speaks; (*Heb. 11:4*)” so, too, Christ’s offering “speaks” to God through His sprinkled blood on the Mercy seat, that offers us forgiveness at this time of Christ Priestly ministry [*Heb.12:24*].
- ✓ **Recipient of hatred** - Though guilty of no offense, Abel was hated by his brother and he cruelly killed him, foreshadowing the treatment which the Lord Jesus received at the hands of the Jews - his brethren according to the flesh. *John 15:25* “But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause’”

c). Isaac was a type of Christ.

- ✓ He was the child of promise. His birth was announced by an angel. [*Gen 17:19, 21; 18:10 cf with Matt 1:20; Luke 1:35; Gal 4:28*]
- ✓ He was supernaturally begotten. [see the preceding point]
- ✓ He was born at an appointed time. [*Gen 17: 21; 18: 14; Gal 4:4*]
- ✓ He was named by God [*Gen 17:19; Matt 1:21; Luke 1:31*].
- ✓ He became obedient unto death. [*Gen 22:9; Heb 11:17-19; Phil 2:8; Matt 26:39,42; John 10:18; Heb 5:8; Heb 12:2*]
- ✓ He carried on his own shoulder the wood on which he was to be offered. [*Gen 22:6; Luke 23:26*]
- ✓ He was securely fastened to the altar. [*Gen 22:9; Matt 27:35; Mark 15:25; Luke 23:33*]
- ✓ And, it was on the “third day” that Abraham received him back ‘figuratively from the dead’ [*Heb. 11:19*].”

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Questions:

1. Where must we begin our study of the Word of God and why?
2. How is Christ presented in the Old Testament Scriptures?
3. What is a type and what is an antitype. Please give examples.
4. Read 1Tim.2:14(*Not in notes*). Why was Adam not deceived?
5. Can you think of how Joseph & Moses typify Christ? Kindly give scripture references.
6. What about the manna in the wilderness (*Exod.16*), the Passover lambs in Egypt (*Exod.12*) and the striking of the rock in Horeb and Zin (*Exod.17: Num 20*)