

Biblical Types

An Introduction to God's Theatre

So much of biblical interpretation is missed by not taking seriously the historical accounts of what happened to God's people Israel.

God said that Israel was to be a prophetic people and a holy (set apart) nation.

If people want to know God's plan for the world, they need to look at what Israel experienced: their lives are prophetic 'types'.

David was a 'type' of the coming King, Jesus:

And David the king cometh in and sitteth before Jehovah, and saith, 'Who am I, O Jehovah God, and what my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto? And this is small in Thine eyes, O God, and Thou speakest concerning the house of thy servant afar off, and hast **seen me as a type of the man who is on high**, O Jehovah God!

(1Ch 17:16-17)

At God's instruction, Ezekiel frequently acted out the events that would happen to Israel, making him a 'type' of Israel:

Ezekiel As A Type

And **Ezekiel hath been to you for a type**, According to all that he hath done ye do; In its coming in—ye have known that I am the Lord Jehovah. And thou, son of man, Is it not in the day of My taking from them their strength, The joy of their beauty, the desire of their eyes, And the song of their soul, Their sons and their daughters? In that day come doth the escaped one to thee. To cause the ears to hear. In that day opened is thy mouth with the escaped, And thou speakest, and art not silent any more, And **thou hast been to them for a type**. And they have known that I am Jehovah.'

(Eze 24:21-27)

Point being, God not only prophesies through 'words'...He ALSO prophesies by causing the individual lives to align with the later experiences of entire peoples:

Ezekiel Acting Israel's Fate:

And thou, son of man, make to thee vessels of removal, and remove by day before their eyes, and thou hast removed from thy place unto another place before their eyes, it may be they consider, for a rebellious house they are . And thou hast brought forth thy vessels as vessels of removal by day before their eyes, and thou, thou dost go forth at even before their eyes, as the goings forth of a removal. Before their eyes dig for thee through the wall, and thou hast brought forth by it. Before their eyes on the shoulder thou dost bear, in the darkness thou dost bring forth, thy face thou dost cover, and thou dost not see the earth, for a type I have given thee to the house of Israel...Thus said the Lord Jehovah: 'The prince is this burden in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel who are in their midst. Say: **I am your type**; as I have done so it is done to them, into a removal, into a captivity, they do go.

(Eze 12:3-11)

God's ability to control not only what happens to individuals but also what happens to history, is testimony to His ability and veracity: He says who He says He is, and does what He says He'll do.

There are several examples in the New Testament scriptures which prove God controls history this way, and explain His purpose in so doing.

Paul: Two Covenants

...Abraham had two sons, one by the maid-servant, and one by the free-woman, but he who is of the maid-servant, according to flesh hath been, and he who is of the free-woman, through the promise; which things are allegorized, for these are the two covenants: one, indeed, from mount Sinai, to servitude bringing forth, which is Hagar; for this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and doth correspond to the Jerusalem that now is, and is in servitude with her children, and the Jerusalem above is the free-woman, which is mother of us all, for it hath been written, 'Rejoice, O barren, who art not bearing; break forth and cry, thou who art not travailing, because many are the children of the desolate—more than of her having the husband.' And we, brethren, as Isaac, are children of promise, but as then he who was born according to the flesh did persecute him according to the spirit, so also now; but what saith the Writing? 'Cast forth the maid-servant and her son, for the son of the maid-servant may not be heir with the son of the free-woman;' then, brethren, we are not a maid-servant's children, but the free-woman's.

(Gal 4:22-31)

The PHYSICAL, REAL people and events used by God are presented by Paul as:

Sarah vs Hagar

Isaac vs Ishmael

Sinai vs Jerusalem

The SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENTS which correspond to those 'symbols' are:

Freedom vs Slavery

Spirit vs Flesh

New covenant vs Old covenant

Summary of the types:

New Covenant	Old Covenant
Sarah	Hagar
Free-woman	Slave-woman
Jerusalem	Sinai
Isaac	Ishmael
Promise/Spirit	Flesh
Freedom	Servitude
Jerusalem above	Jerusalem below

Paul clearly indicates here that Sarah's experience with Hagar is a God-ordered allegory for the old and new covenants.

Thus it clearly demonstrates God's use of His people, as recorded in the scriptures, to inform us of His plan.

And all these things as types did happen to those persons, and they were written for our admonition, to whom the end of the ages did come...

(1Co 10:11)

The author of Hebrews makes clear that even the rites and objects of the religious system prescribed by the law are 'shadow copies' of the 'original' patterns that exist in heaven, and thus are NOT ends in themselves.

for if, indeed, he were upon earth, he would not be a priest—(there being the priests who are offering according to the law, the gifts, who **unto an example and shadow** do serve **of the heavenly things**, as Moses hath been divinely warned, being about to construct the tabernacle, for 'See (saith He) thou mayest make all things **according to the pattern** that was shewn to thee in the mount;') — and now he hath obtained a more excellent service, how much also of a better covenant is he mediator, which on better promises hath been sanctioned,

(Heb 8:4-6)

Likewise, the purification rites ordained under the old covenant served to fore-shadow and picture the purification required in heaven which was performed by Jesus Christ as High Priest:

Earthly vs Heavenly

for every command having been spoken, according to law, by Moses, to all the people, having taken the blood of the calves and goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, he both the book itself and all the people did sprinkle, saying, 'This is the blood of the covenant that God enjoined unto you,' and both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the service with blood in like manner he did sprinkle, and with blood almost all things are purified according to the law, and apart from blood-shedding forgiveness doth not come. It is necessary, therefore, **the pattern** indeed of the **things in the heavens** to be purified with these, and **the heavenly things themselves** with better sacrifices than these; for not into **holy places made with hands** did the Christ enter—figures of the true—but **into the heaven itself**, now to be manifested in the presence of God for us;

(Heb 9:19-24)

Summary of the types:

New Covenant	Old Covenant
Melchizedek	Levitical
Jesus	Aaron
Jesus' blood	Calves', goats' blood
Heaven	Tabernacle of Testimony

Many such types are explained throughout the New Testament scriptures.

Serpent in Wilderness

if the earthly things I said to you, and ye do not believe, how, if I shall say to you the heavenly things, will ye believe? and no one hath gone up to the heaven, except he who out of the heaven came down—the Son of Man who is in the heaven. 'And as **Moses did lift up the serpent in the wilderness**, so it behoveth the **Son of Man to be lifted up**, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during,

(Joh 3:12-15)

Summary of the types:

Jesus	Serpent
God	Moses
Earth	Wilderness
Salvation from sin	Healing of snake bite

When you begin to believe that God 'speaks' this way *through His people*, it opens your eyes to look and see 'new' things what were previously treated as mere 'stories'.

You can also then begin to 'translate' pieces of the 'story' which the scriptures do not explicitly translate or state themselves.

And I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, that all our fathers were under the **cloud**, and all passed through the **sea**, and all to **Moses** were **baptized** in the cloud, and in the sea; and all the same **spiritual food did eat**, and all the same **spiritual drink did drink**, for they were drinking of a **spiritual rock** following them, and the **rock was the Christ**;

(1Co 10:1-4)

Here Paul draws on the shadows described in the Law in order to illustrate spiritual realities.

Question:

If crossing through the Reed Sea was 'baptism into Moses', i.e. the Old Covenant, what historical event might foreshadow 'baptism into Jesus', i.e. the New Covenant?

Consider:

then ye have caused your sons to know, saying, **On dry land Israel passed over this Jordan**; because Jehovah your God dried up the waters of the Jordan at your presence, till your passing over, **as Jehovah your God did to the Red Sea which He dried up at our presence till our passing over; so that all the people of the land do know the hand of Jehovah that it is strong**, so that ye have revered Jehovah your God all the days.'

(Jos 4:22-24)

Answer:

Clearly the corresponding shadow, even if not stated anywhere in scripture, is when Hoshea (called by Moses 'Joshua'--Jesus), led the children of Israel across the Jordan river into the Promised Land.

Summary of the types:

New Covenant	Old Covenant
Jesus/Joshua	Moses
Jordan	Reed Sea
Promised Land	Wilderness

This use of shadows (or 'types') is used repeatedly throughout the New Testament scriptures.

We ought then, read the Old Testament scriptures seeking to understand the shadows presented.

For example, there is more to see in that story of the Jordan river crossing...but I'll leave that to you to search out.

Let's look at some examples from the Old Testament scriptures.

Elisha Raises the Dead:

And she saith, 'Did I ask a son from my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?' And he saith to Gehazi, 'Gird up thy loins, and **take my staff** in thy hand, and go; when thou dost meet a man, thou dost not salute him; and when a man doth salute thee, thou dost not answer him; and thou hast **laid my staff on the face of the youth.**' And the mother of the youth saith, 'Jehovah liveth, and thy soul liveth—if I leave thee;' and he riseth and goeth after her. And Gehazi hath passed on before them, and **layeth the staff on the face of the youth, and there is no voice, and there is no attention,** and he turneth back to meet him, and declareth to him, saying, '**The youth hath not awaked.**' And Elisha cometh in to the house, and lo, the youth is dead, laid on his bed, and he goeth in and shutteth the door upon them both, and prayeth unto Jehovah. And he goeth up, and **lieth down on the lad, and putteth his mouth on his mouth, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands, and stretcheth himself upon him, and the flesh of the lad becometh warm;** and he turneth back and walketh in the house, once hither and once thither, and goeth up and **stretcheth himself upon him, and the youth sneezeth till seven times,** and the youth openeth his eyes. And he calleth unto Gehazi, and saith, 'Call unto this Shunammite;' and he calleth her, and she cometh in unto him, and he saith, 'Lift up thy son.'

(2Ki 4:27-36)

Summary of the types:

Boy	Israel
Elisha	Jesus
Gehazi	Moses
Rod	Law
Warming stretch	Jesus' First Coming
Resurrection	Jesus' Second Coming

So what is that 'story' really about?

It is saying that God sent His servant Moses with the first covenant of the Law, but that Law could not bring life.

So God Himself came in His Son Jesus, bringing life but not the rising again of His people Israel.

And He will come a second time at which time the dead will rise.

The Old Testament scriptures (so-called) are loaded with such types which enrich understanding of things past, present and future.

Study them with new eyes, asking God for understanding.

And a certain Jew, Apollos by name...a man of eloquence, being **mighty in the Writings**, came to Ephesus, this one was **instructed in the way of the Lord**, and being **fervent in the Spirit**, was speaking and **teaching exactly the things about the Lord**, knowing only the baptism of John; this one also began to speak boldly in the synagogue, and Aquilas and Priscilla having heard of him, took him to them , and did more exactly expound to him the way of God...powerfully the Jews he was refuting publicly, **shewing through the Writings Jesus to be the Christ.**

(Act 18:24-28)