

Design in Miracles

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Elijah Taken to Heaven



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A. Miracle as Irrational or Rational?

One View: Unaccountable Event

Meaning of "miracle"

- Unaccountable means irrational
- Unaccountable means unexpected, unusual

Designed?

- Undesigned, pure chance
- Chance?
or personal design?

Hard to Accept?

The Unexpected

- Irrational
- Pure chance
- Unexpected
- Unusual

Response

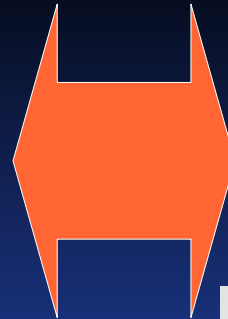
- Contradictory: can't accept
- Can't make sense
- May or may not make sense
- With purpose?

B. Personal or Impersonal?

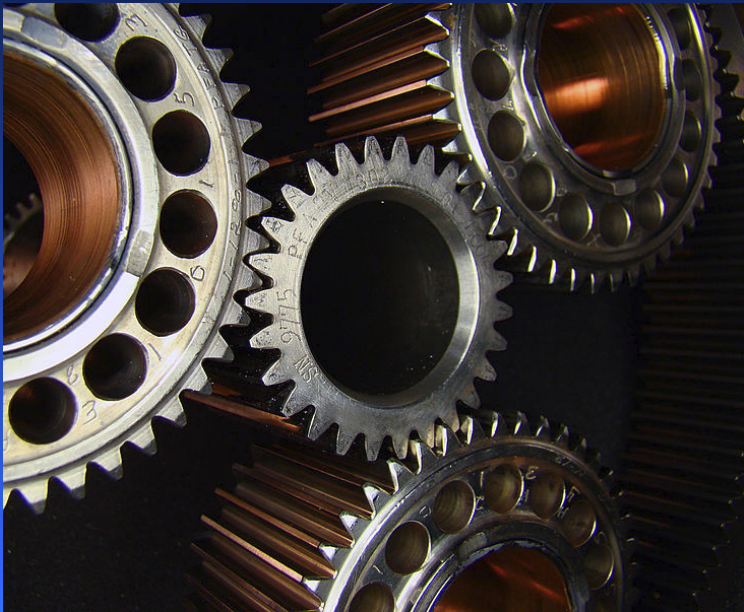


Personal Planning

Mechanical
regularity



Personal
regularity



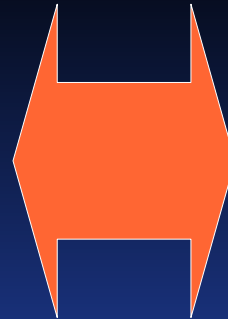
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Personal Planning

Mechanical
regularity?

Personal
regularity



Get up at
7:00am

Get up at
5:30am

A "law"?

Why?
A miracle?

Catch a plane!

Why Any Predictability at All?

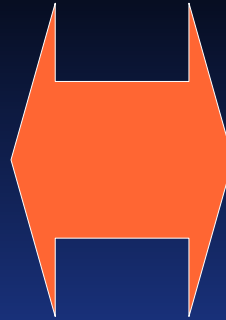
- Personal character is stable in human beings
- God's character is unchanging
- God's promise:
“While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.” – Gen. 8:22

C. Nature of the World



Physical Bottom

matter, energy,
motion



God personally
created and rules

no innate purpose

purpose

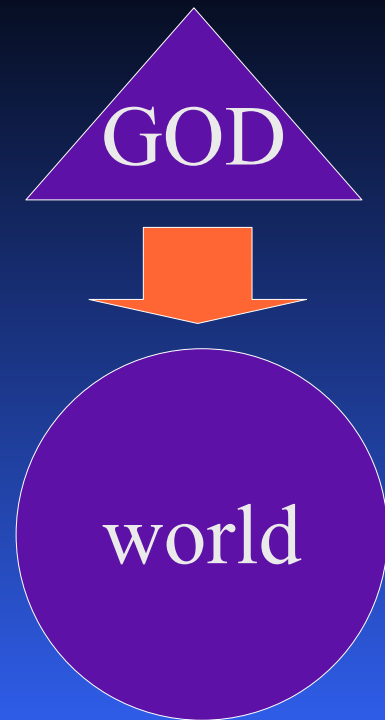
impersonalism

personalism

Creation

In the beginning, God
created the heavens
and the earth.

– Gen. 1:1 ESV



personalism

Physical Law

rational,
lingual



scientific law



matter, energy,
motion

~~impersonalism~~

God personally
created and rules

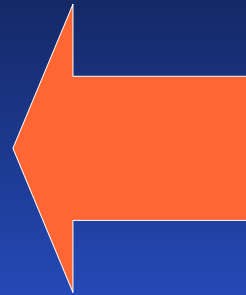


law as
personal speech



matter, energy,
motion

personalism



God's Word as Law

And God said, "Let
there be light," and
there was light.
– Gen. 1:3



personalism

Miracle and Breaking Law?

Impersonal Law

- Law is purely general
- An exception would break the law

Personal Speech

- God specifies both regularities and exceptions
- The real law is God's speech
- Miracle breaks human expectations

Presence of Design

- Designed law
- Designed creatures
- Designed humanity
- Designed chemistry
- Designed events
- $F = ma$
- an apple
- You!
- H_2O
- the usual
- the unusual

Design in the Ordinary

You [God] cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
– Psalm 104:14

- For the livestock
- Plants for man
- Food
- Other purposes? beauty, wisdom, power

D. Design in Miracles



Parting of the Red Sea

The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. – Exod. 14:21

using means

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

personal purposes

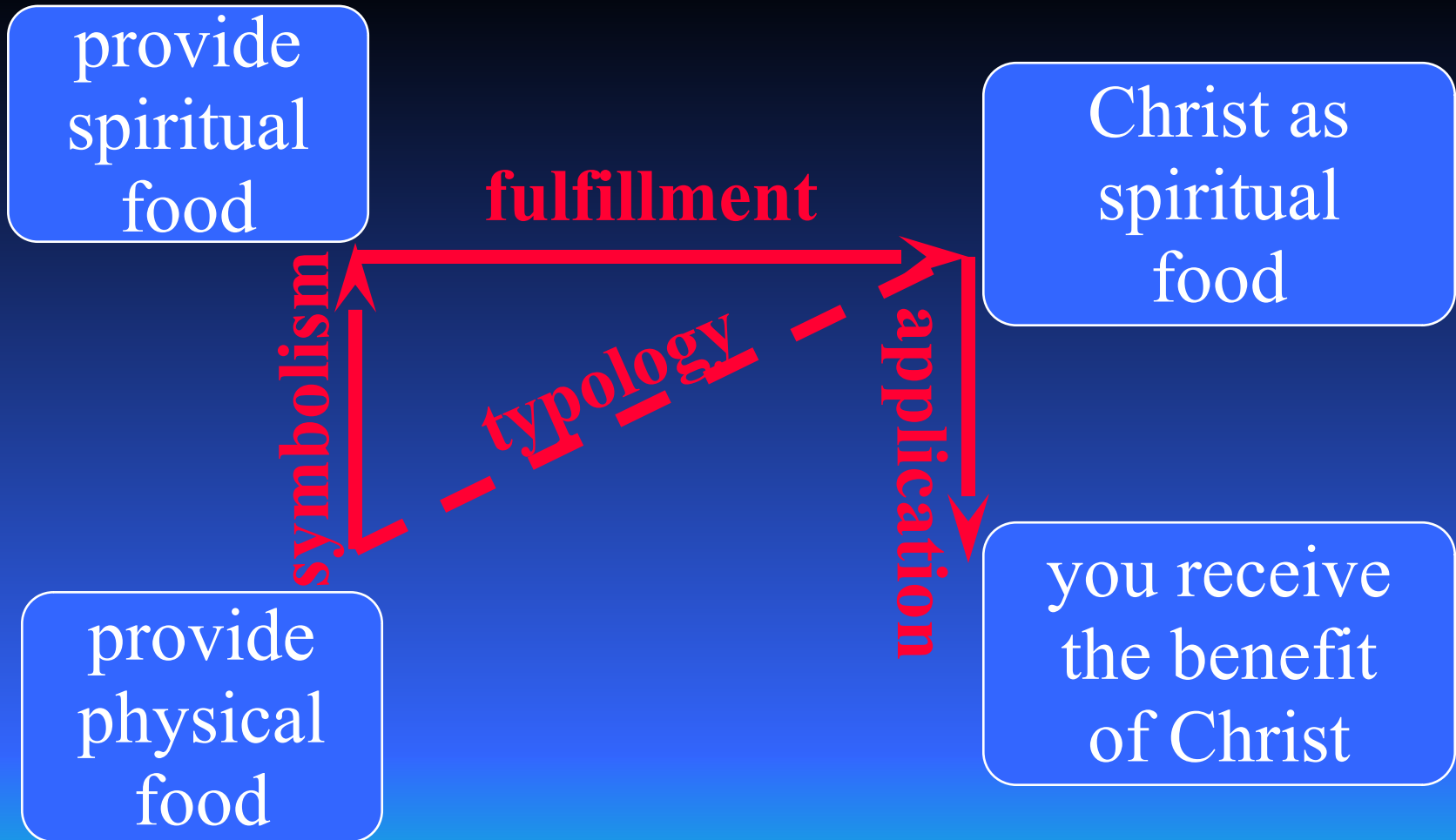
Feeding 5000 (Matthew 14:17-21)

... They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

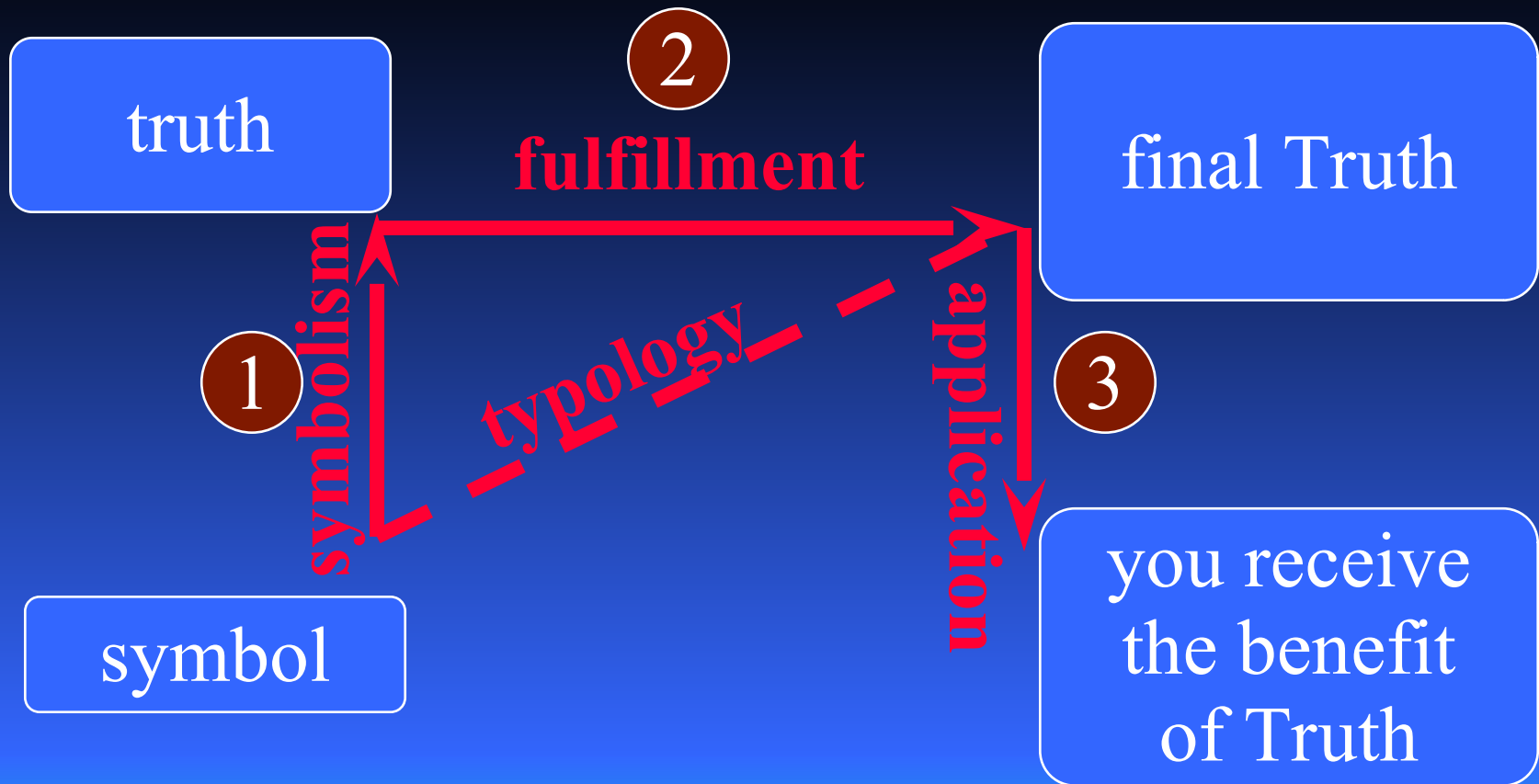
Meaning about Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. – John 1:1-3

Meaning in Food



Clowney's Triangle of Typology



Meaning in Food: Creation

provide
spiritual
food

food in
creation
Gen. 1:11-13

provide
physical
food

fulfillment

Christ as
spiritual
food

symbolism

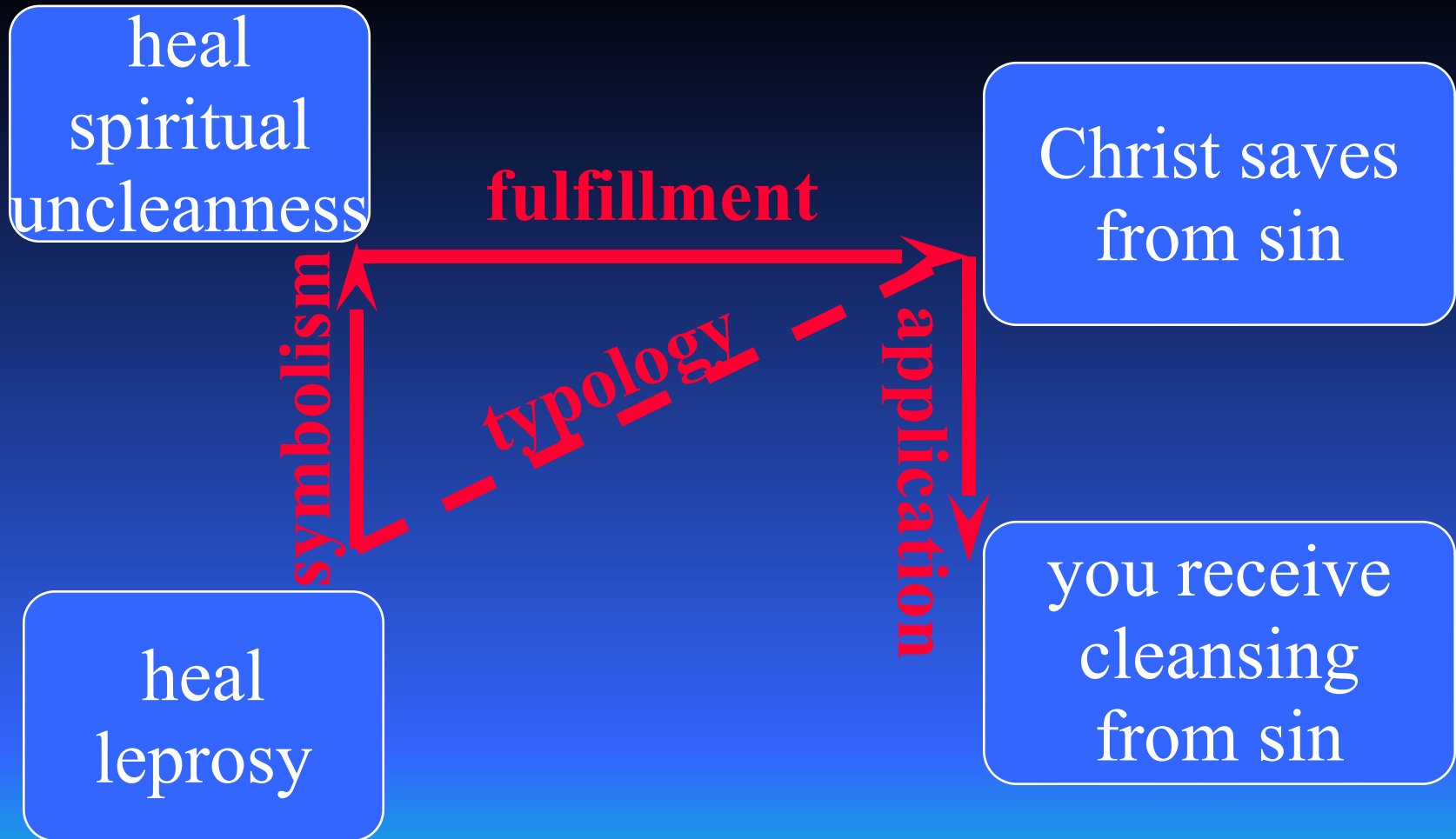
application

you receive
the benefit
of Christ

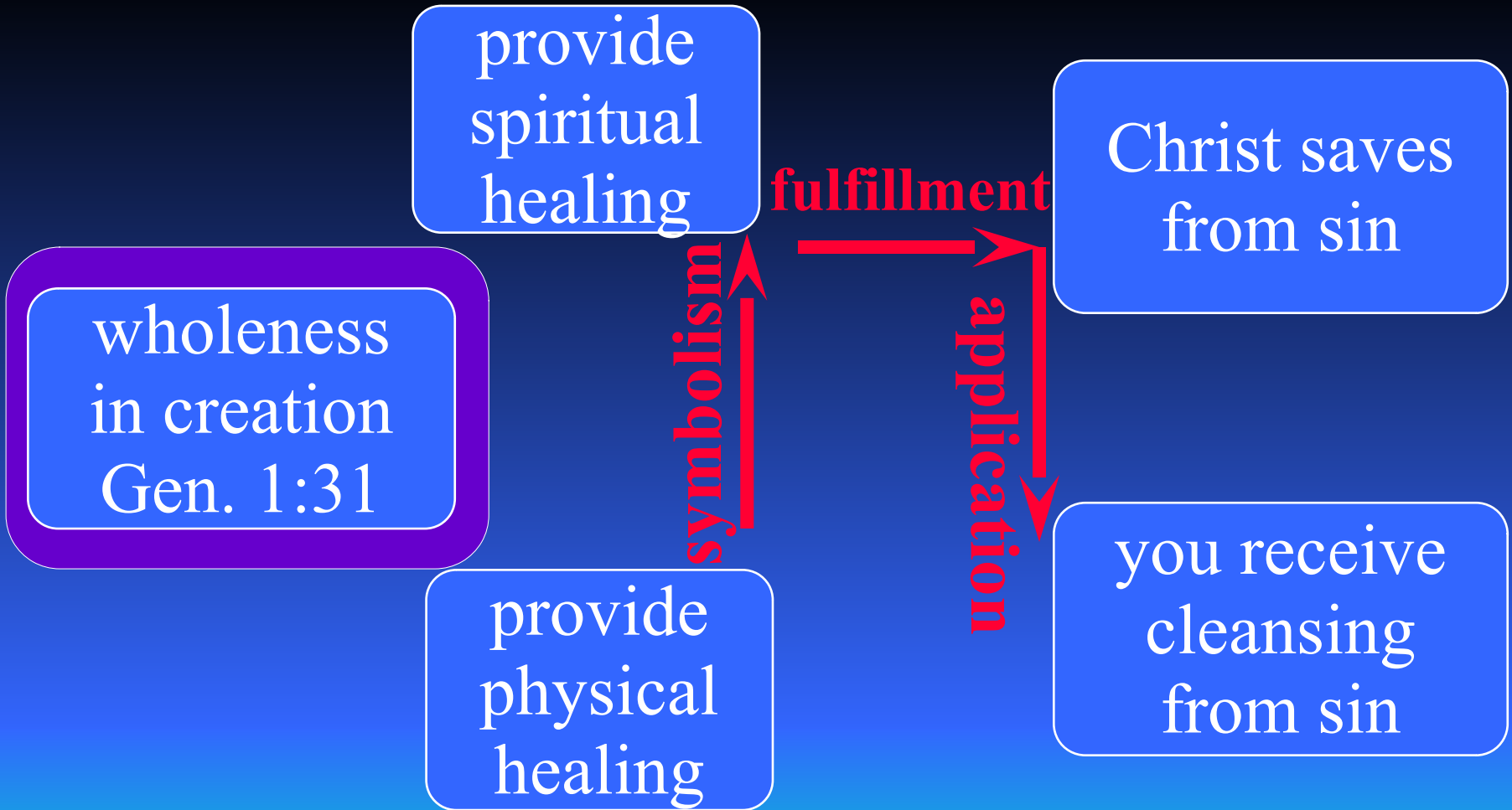
Healing Leprosy (Matthew 8:2-3)

And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Meaning in Healing



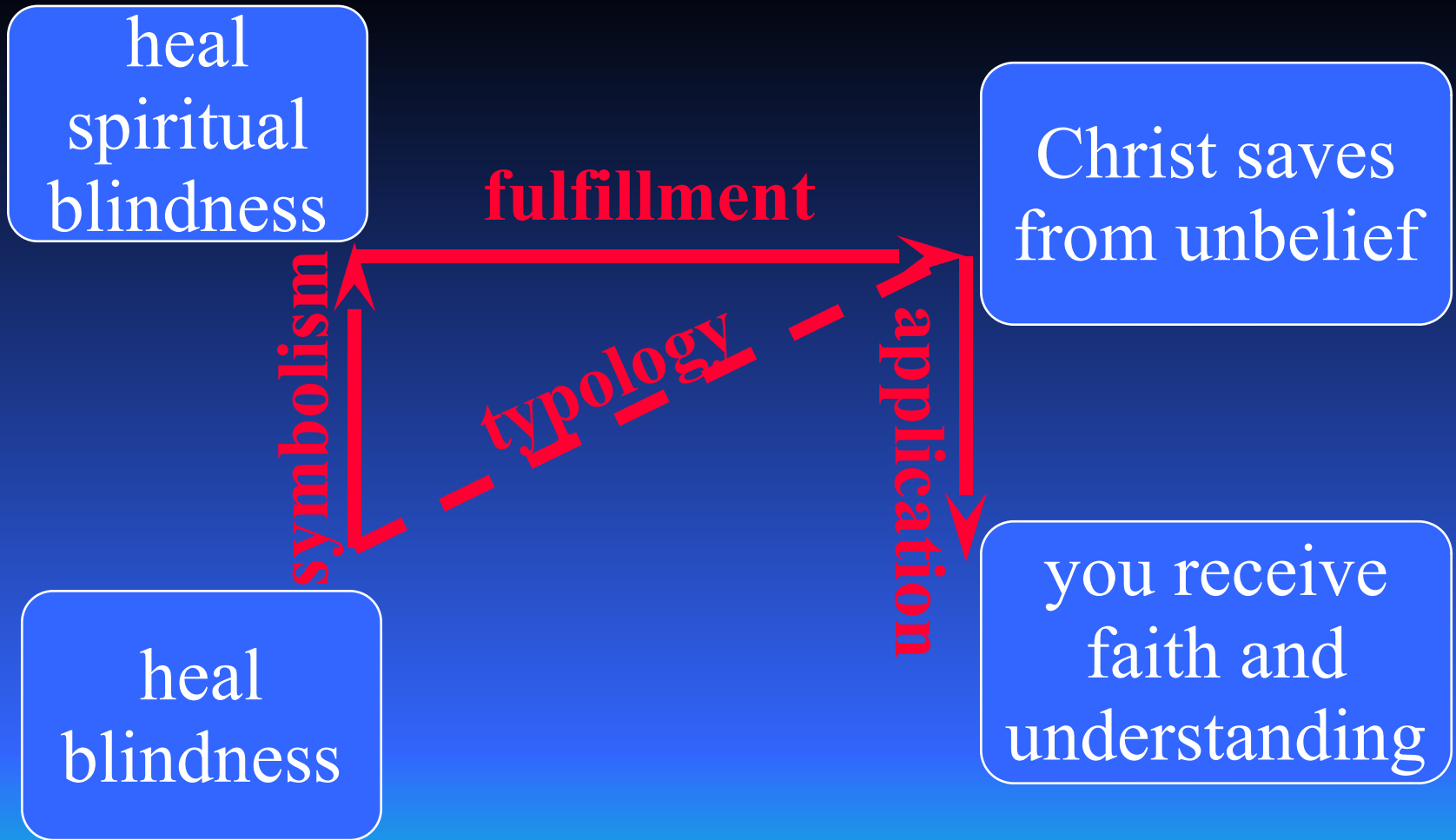
Meaning in Healing: Creation



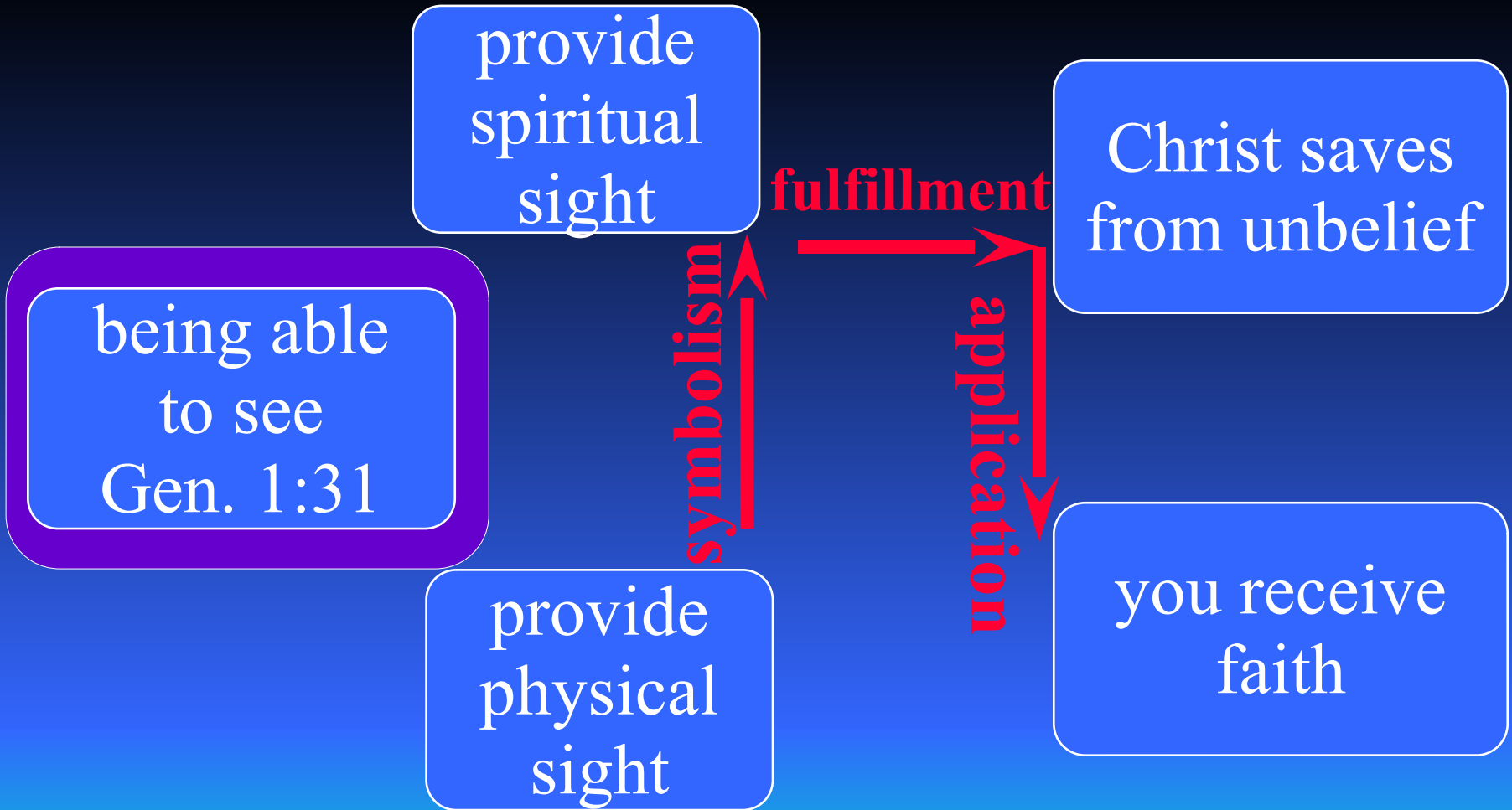
Delivering from Blindness (Matthew 12:22)

Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.

Meaning in Healing Blindness



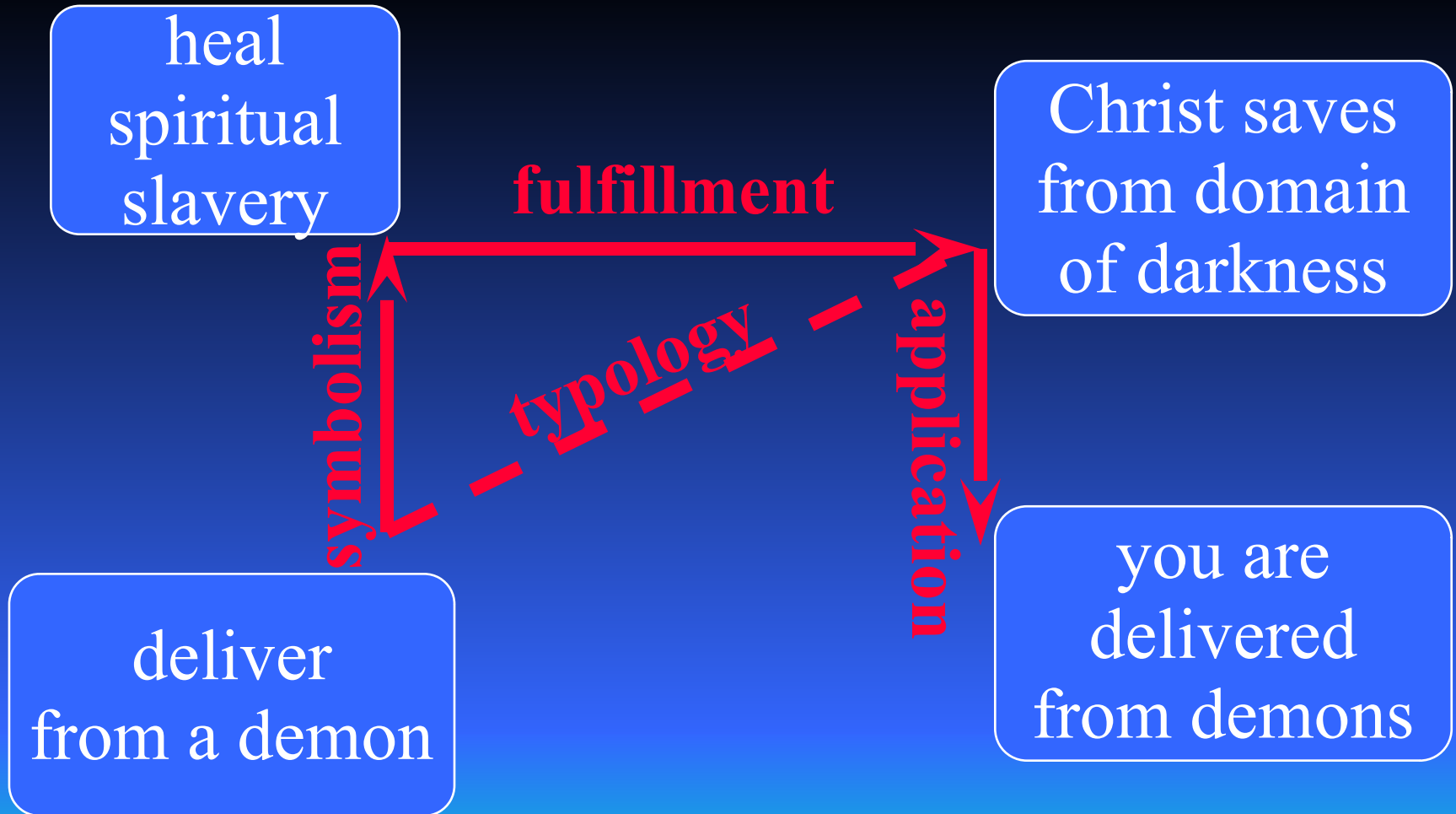
Meaning in Healing: Creation



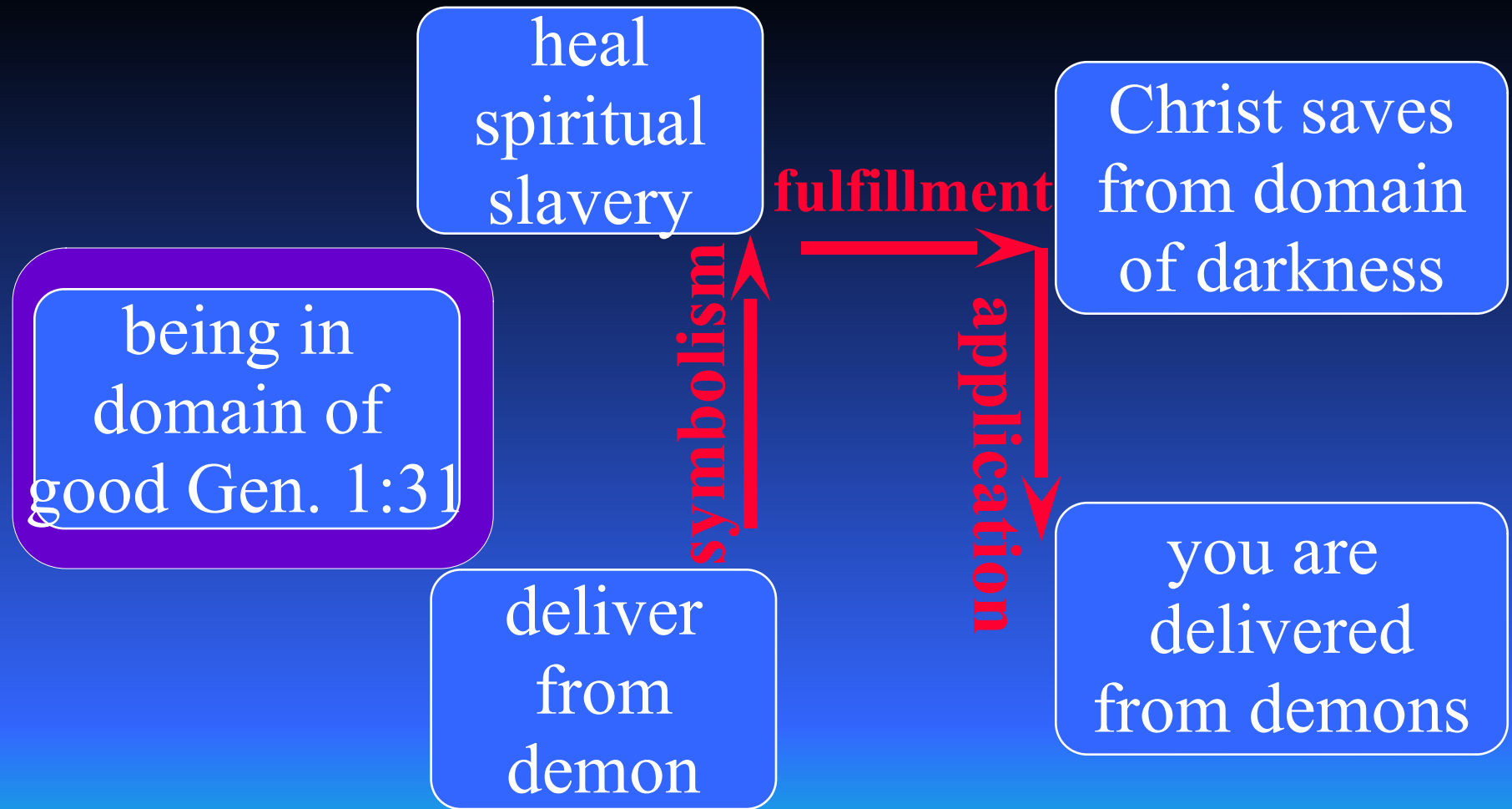
Delivering from Demons (Matthew 12:22)

Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.

Meaning in Driving Out Demons



Meaning in Healing: Creation



Fulfilling God's Plan

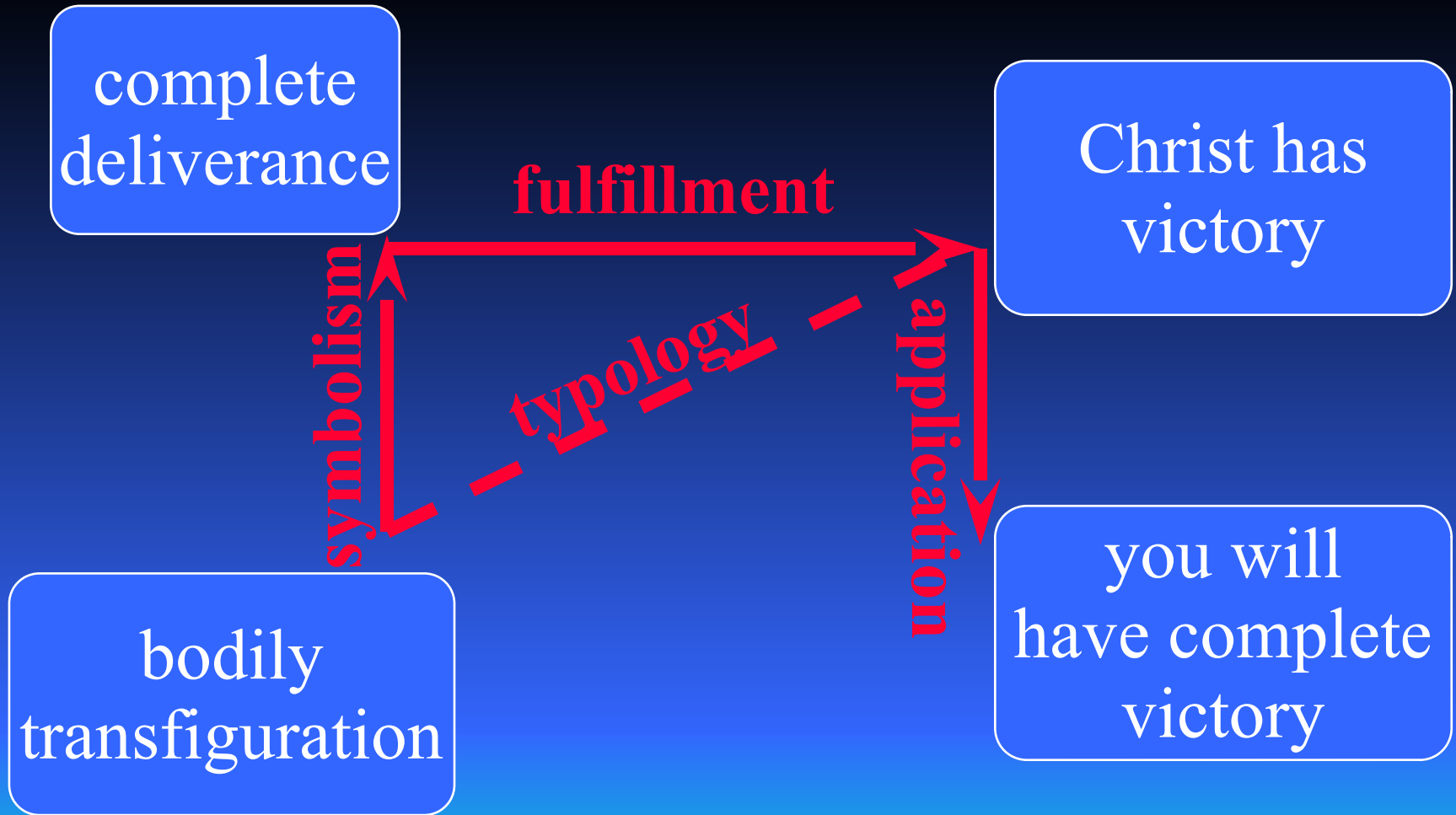
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

– Isaiah 35:5-6

Resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:4)

He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Meaning in the Resurrection



E. Meaning in Miracless



Principles

- God rules personally
- God has a rational plan
 - He is source of all rationality
- Miracles express personal purposes
- Miracles show who God is
- Miracles show his care
- Miracles show remedy for sin, guilt, and alienation
- Miracles are designed
- Regularities of providence are designed