Christ through Typology

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The Challenge

The Old Testament seems irrelevant to me.

It points to Christ.
A. Biblical Basis: Christ Speaks about Himself
Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
46 and said to them, “Thus is it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”
Other Passages about Christocentricity

- 2 Cor. 1:20
- 1 Pet. 1:10-12
- John 5:39; 5:46-47; 8:56
- Matthew
B. The Principle: God’s One Plan
God Plans History

Isaiah 46:9-10:  …
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, “My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,”
One Way of Redemption
Through Christ

Acts 4:12:
And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
Redemption through History

one redemption

Noah → Abraham → Moses → Joshua → David → Solomon → Hezekiah
C. Types
1 Cor. 10:6: Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

1 Cor. 10:11: Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
Types

“example” in 1 Cor. 10 → *tupos* → *type* = a foreshadowing of what God plans

related to our meanings
“printing type,” “typeface” -- acting like a model
Symbolism

• “An earthly representation of divine truth.”
• Has meaning at the time.
• Illustration: manna symbolizes God’s daily care.
Definition of a Type

- “A symbol pointing to a fulfillment”

Illustration: the tabernacle
The Tabernacle as a Type

Truth fulfilled
God dwells with us through Christ

Symbol
Tabernacle as tent dwelling

God dwells with his people

Truth

Tabernacle as tent dwelling

God dwells with his people
Terms in Typology

- Symbol = “type”
- Truth fulfilled = “antitype”
- Study of the whole = typology

= typical relation
D. Principles for Interpreting Types
An Example: Sacrifices

substitute for sin

Christ is the final substitute for sin

animal sacrifice

you receive the benefit of Christ

fulfillment

typology
Clowney’s Triangle of Typology

1. Symbol
2. Fulfillment
3. You receive the benefit of Truth
Avoiding the False Routes

- truth
- symbol
- fulfillment
- typology
- allegorization
- moralism
- application
- final Truth
- you receive the benefit of Truth
- avoid short-cutting Christ
Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

- What did it symbolize then?

Attend to context.
Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

- What did it symbolize then? What was the symbolic significance at the time when God first introduced this item?

Attend to context.
Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?

God gives food

symbolic reference

manna

 Attend to context.
Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then? What was the symbolic significance at the time when God first introduced this item?

God gives food

Manna

Attend to context.
Step 2: Go Forward in History

• What does it anticipate?

text: What does it anticipate?

truth

final, fulfilled

God's plan develops.

history of revelation

2

Truth in Christ

God's plan develops.
Step 2: Go Forward in History

What greater manifestation of truth did it embody and anticipate? (Look at context.)
• What does it anticipate?

God gives food

history of revelation

2

Christ is the final Spiritual food

God's plan develops.
Step 3: Apply to Us

- How do we benefit?
Step 3: Apply to Us

- How do we benefit from participating in the fulfillment in union with Christ?

Written for us!
Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

• How do we benefit?

Christ is the final spiritual food you eat Christ

Written for us!
Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

- How do we benefit from participating in the fulfillment in union with Christ?

Written for us!

Christ is the final spiritual food

you eat Christ
Step 4: How Does Fulfillment Illumine the Earlier Stages?

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.

symbol

final, fulfilled Truth in Christ

Put it all together.
Illustration of Step 4 (More)

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.

Christ is the final spiritual food.

Put it all together.

symbol

Food and sacrifice and priest in one!
Step 5: Deepen the Earlier Stage

- More significance in the original?

God knew.
Illustration of Step 5 (Deepen)

- More significance in the original?

God gives food

symbolic reference

daily, from heaven, sufficient

manna

God knew.
Step 4: Trace Beginning and End

- Trace from creation to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Step 4: Trace Beginning and End

- Trace the truth back to creation and forward to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

• Trace the truth back to creation and forward to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Step 5: Distinctiveness

- Note distinctiveness of each epoch.
Step 5: Distinctiveness

- Reflect on the overall distinctiveness of each epoch in its embodiment of the truth.
Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.

- Bread for nation in wilderness/world
Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Reflect on the overall distinctiveness of each epoch in its embodiment of the truth.
Limits of Typology

• No new doctrine or predictions.
• Because:
  – Christ is not hidden but revealed! (We are not gnostics.)
  – Shadow is less full than fulfillment.
  – One needs context to control analogy.
Limits of Typology

- Do not make new doctrine or predictions.
- Because:
  - In NT, Christ is not hidden but revealed! (We are not gnostics.)
  - The shadow, as shadow, is less full than its fulfillment.
  - One needs context to establish and control the directions of analogy.
E. An Example
Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?

God protects and rewards his faithful

Daniel

Attend to context.
Illustration of Step 2 (Fulfill)

- What does it anticipate?

- Christ is the final faithful One
- God protects and rewards
- God's plan develops.
Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

• How do we benefit?

Written for us!

Christ’s reward comes to us

you are raised

3

application
Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.

Fulfillment already holds, and is yet to come.
Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.

life for one; lesson for all
F. Multifaceted Imagery
Daniel and Lions (Daniel 6)

- Adam as representative ruler
- seed of woman
- exodus
- Jews in captivity
- Babylon as lion kingdom
- lions on earth
- Christ
- church
- individual
- eschatological hope built in
- consummation victory
- Significant
Tabernacle as Multifaceted

- Heaven
- Eschatological hope built in Christ
- Consummation
- Church
- Individual’s body
- Israelite tents
- Eden
- Rich
Maxims on Typology

• 1-1 correspondences miss multifaceted relations.
• Note the superiority of the antitype.
• NT in relation to OT, not NT instead of OT.
• A sermon is not a lecture.
Maxims on Typology

- 1-1 line-ups of type and antitype may miss multifaceted relations.
- Note the superiority of the antitype and the insufficiency of the type.
- Allegorization and forced typology preach the NT instead of the OT, rather than NT in relation to the OT.
- Do not turn a sermon into a biblical-theological lecture.
Bibliography of Typology

- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*
- Poythress, Vern S. *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*
David and Goliath as Multifaceted

- Adam as representative
- Seed of woman
- Exodus
- Divine warrior in heaven
- Israelite soldiers
- Fight on earth
- Eschatological hope built in
- Christ
- Church
- Individual
- Consumption victory
- Eph. 6:10-20
- Isa. 27:1; 51:9-11