

## **“THE TYPOLOGY OF THE BIBLE” SERIES**

### **#2: “Types of Jesus” (Part 1)**

**SCRIPTURE: John 5:39-40 (CEV)**

**INTRO:**

In John’s account of the life and teachings of Jesus, he wrote in chapter 5, verses 39 and 40, that Jesus told the Jewish people: *“You search the Scriptures, because you think you will find eternal life in them. The Scriptures tell about me, but you refuse to come to me for eternal life.”*

Of course, the Scriptures He was referring to were what we know as the Old Testament Scriptures.

I read a story about an old country preacher who was always preaching on baptism. He couldn’t preach a sermon without turning it into a sermon on baptism. So, the elders of the church decided to direct him in his choices of texts for his sermons. They told him to preach on the first chapter of Genesis. So, the next Sunday he did just that. He pointed out that when the Lord made the earth, only one-fourth was land, and three-fourths was water. Then, he proceeded to his favorite subject by pointing out that there was plenty of water to baptize anyone just about anywhere.

While that may be somewhat of a stretch, preaching Christ from just about any page of the Bible isn’t. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the focus and centerpiece of just about every page of the Bible. The first five books, the books of Law, say, “Look for the coming priest who’ll make the perfect sacrifice!” The books of history say, “Look for the coming King of kings!” The books of prophecy say, “Look for the coming Prophet!” The books of poetry say, “Look for the coming Redeemer!” The whole Old Testament Scriptures say, “The Messiah is coming!” The Gospels say, “The Messiah has come!” The Epistles say, “The Messiah is coming again!”

A young lady was invited to dinner to meet her future husband’s parents. After the meal, the young man’s mother invited her to look at the family photo album. She then proceeded to point out the pictures of her son. She said, “Here’s Johnny on his first birthday. Here he is on his first bicycle. Here he is on his motorcycle. And here he is with a cast on his leg after his first motorcycle accident.” (Ha!) Of course, the young lady enjoyed seeing such precious pictures of her betrothed.

Similarly, you and I should enjoy looking at the pictures of Jesus, the one to whom we are betrothed, in the Old Testament. Jesus said in Luke 24:44: *“While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets,*

*and in the Psalms had to happen.” Then Luke wrote in verse 45: “Then he helped them understand the Scriptures.”*

I hope this study of Bible typology helps us understand the Scriptures better...

Someone has noted that:

- In Genesis, Christ is the promised seed of woman, coming to defeat Satan;
- In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb;
- In Leviticus, He is the coming High Priest who will offer the perfect sacrifice and enter the eternal Tabernacle;
- In Numbers, He is the One who will be lifted up as the metal snake so that all who look on Him will be saved;
- In Deuteronomy, He is the ultimate Moses;
- In Joshua, He is the One who will lead us into the eternal promised land;
- In Judges, He is the coming Judge who will destroy all our enemies;
- In Ruth, He is our Kinsman Redeemer;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, He is the coming King of kings;
- In Ezra, He is the Reformer who will turn the people back to God;
- In Nehemiah, He is the Rebuilder of the walls of eternal Zion, the New Jerusalem;
- In Esther, He is our Advocate;
- In Job, He is the Companion and Encourager;
- In the Psalms, He is the Shepherd who leads us to still waters;
- In Proverbs, He is Wisdom and a Friend that sticks closer than a brother;
- In Ecclesiastes, He is our answer to the meaning of life;
- In the Song of Solomon, He is our loving Husband who will take us to His heavenly palace;
- In Isaiah, He is the virgin-born suffering servant;
- In Jeremiah, He is the righteous branch out of David and heir to the throne of the eternal kingdom;
- In Lamentations, He is the One who weeps over the sin of His people;
- In Ezekiel, He is the glory of God;
- In Daniel, He is the Fourth Man in the furnace, who will stand by us;
- In Hosea, He is the forgiving husband;
- In Joel, He is a Refuge in time of trouble;
- In Amos, He is the Rebuker of His people;
- In Obadiah, He is the Savior of the remnant of His people;
- In Jonah, He is the prophet who died and rose from the grave;
- In Micah, He is the Rejected Judge who will rule the world:
- In Nahum, He is He who comforts us concerning our enemies and assures us of God’s vengeance;

- In Habakkuk, He is the Judge who executes righteous wrath;
- In Zephaniah, He is the coming King who remembers His people after judgment;
- In Haggai, He is the Desire of all nations, the One who will restore the eternal heavenly temple;
- In Zechariah, He is One coming as both Priest and King;
- In Malachi, He is the Messenger of the New Covenant;
- In Matthew, He is the Son of David and Son of God;
- In Mark, He is the Servant Priest;
- In Luke, He is the One prophesied, the Son of Man;
- In John, He is the Son of the loving, living God;
- In Acts, He is the Living Christ;
- In Romans, He is the Christ, our Redeemer;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, He is our Sanctifier;
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, He is our Victory;
- In Galatians, He is our Liberator;
- In Ephesians, He is our All;
- In Philippians, He is our Joy;
- In Colossians, He is our Perfecter;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians, He is our Hope;
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians, He is our Coming Glory;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, He is our Example to follow;
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, He is Him who makes it all worthwhile;
- In Titus, He is our Purifier;
- In Philemon, He is a Faith to be shared;
- In Hebrews, He is the Superior Prophet, Priest, and Sacrifice;
- In James, He is the Doer of Righteousness;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, He is the Chief Cornerstone;
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, He is the Power for Godliness;
- In 1<sup>st</sup> John, He is the Key to fellowship with God;
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> John, He is the One with whom we must abide;
- In 3<sup>rd</sup> John, He is the One to be preached everywhere;
- In Jude, He is the One Who presents us faultless before God; and
- In Revelation, He is the “Lion of Judah,” and the “Lamb of God.”

Needless to say, there are many “types” of Christ in the Old Testament. We’ll take time to consider only a few.

The first one is, clearly,

***ADAM.***

Adam typified Christ in many ways, yet he was clearly inferior. He only “resembled” Christ, who was superior, of course in every way.

We can confidently say that Adam was a “type” or “shadow” of Christ because Paul, the Gospel writers, and the writer of the book of Hebrews clearly indicate that he was.

- *Adam was a type of Christ in his origin...*

Genesis 2:7 tells us that Adam came into being when *“The Lord God took a handful of soil and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing.”* What was different about Adam (and Eve, too, for that matter)? What made them different from all the human beings that came after them? (They didn’t have belly buttons!)

No other person originated that way. Eve was “cloned,” we might say, from a part of Adam. Adam was made, miraculously, from a handful of soil.

Christ also had a unique origin. He was born, miraculously, of a virgin. No one else has ever originated this way.

The apostle Paul points out in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45-47 that:

*“The first man was named Adam, and the Scriptures tell us that he was a living person. But Jesus, who may be called the last Adam, is a life-giving spirit. We see that the one with a spiritual body did not come first. He came after the one who had a physical body. The first man was made from the dust of the earth, but the second man came from heaven. Everyone on earth has a body like the body of the one who was made from the dust of the earth. And everyone in heaven has a body like the body of the one who came from heaven. Just as we are like the one who was made out of earth, we will be like the one who came from heaven.”*

- *Adam was a type of Christ in his likeness to God...*

Moses wrote in Genesis 1:26-27: *“God said, ‘Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures.’ So God created humans to be like himself...”*

In Hebrews 1:3, the Bible says of Christ: *“God’s Son has all the brightness of God’s own glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty word, he holds the universe together.”*

- *Adam was a type of Christ in that he was the son of God...*

Luke, in his human genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, wrote: *“The family of Jesus went all the way back to Adam and then to God”* (3:38). In other words, Adam through creation, was the son of God.

In John 3:16, Jesus is referred to as *"his only Son."*

- *Adam was a type of Christ in that he was given authority or dominion over all the earth...*

In Psalm 8:6-8, the Bible says: *"You let us rule everything your hands have made. And you put all of it under our power – the sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and all ocean creatures."*

In Matthew 28:18, the Bible says: *"Jesus came to them and said: 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!'"*

- *Adam was a type of Christ in that he gave up his life in order that the world could be saved...*

Not everyone sees this as I do, but Genesis 3:6 tells us that *"The woman stared at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, and she ate some of the fruit. Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too."*

The apostle Paul comments in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:13-14: *"After all, Adam was created before Eve, and the man Adam wasn't the one who was fooled. It was the woman Eve who was completely fooled and sinned."*

Notice that he says, *"...and the man Adam wasn't the one who was fooled."* Although the Scriptures do not state such, it stands to reason that Adam willingly participated in the breaking of God's law for a reason. It is my belief that he did so in order that he might facilitate the production of the offspring of Eve who would, eventually, deal Satan a mortal blow. In other words, Adam joined Eve in her sin so that he would not lose her and could begin the lineage that would bring Jesus into the world.

- *Adam was a type of Christ in that he was the father of all the people of earth...*

Paul reasons in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:47-48: *"The first man was made from the dust of the earth, but the second man came from heaven. Everyone on earth has a body like the body of the one who was made from the dust of the earth. And everyone in heaven has a body like the body of the one who came from heaven. Just as we are like the one who was made out of earth, we will be like the one who came from heaven."*

In Acts 17:26, Paul explains: *"From one person God made all nations who live on earth..."*

John explains in chapter 1, verses 12-13, of his gospel: *"Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God. They were not*

***God's children by nature or because of any human desires. God himself was the one who made them his children."***

- ***Finally, Adam is a type of Christ in that while his sin caused us all to be sinful, Christ's sinlessness enables all of us to be righteous.***

***In Romans 5:16 and 19 Paul explains: "There is a lot of difference between Adam's sin and God's gift. That one sin led to punishment. But God's gift made it possible for us to be acceptable to him, even though we have sinned many times. . . Adam disobeyed God and caused many others to be sinners. But Jesus obeyed him and will make many people acceptable to God."***

#### **CONCLUSION:**

**In closing, I call your attention to two of the trees we read about in Scripture, the first being the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden – the tree of knowledge. It was planted by God himself. It was beautiful to look at through the eyes of man's flesh, but it was a forbidden tree; humans were not to eat of its fruit. Satan succeeded in seducing Eve to eat of it. Because she ate of it, Adam ate of it, too. And they both became sinners. As sinners, they were evicted from Paradise and cursed for their sin.**

**The second tree I call to your attention is that of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. John wrote in chapter 19, verse 41, "In the place where Jesus had been nailed to a cross, there was a garden with a tomb that had never been used." The cross-tree was planted by man, and while it was an instrument of execution, it was beautiful when seen through spiritual eyes. God invites men to embrace it, not stay away from it. Satan seduces men to avoid it and refrain from partaking of its fruit. While the tree in the Garden of Eden brought sin and death, the cross-tree brought righteousness and eternal life. Eve and Adam were evicted from Paradise; the thief partook of the cross-tree and entered Paradise. The fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden brought a curse on mankind; the fruit of the tree in the garden of the tomb brought a blessing to all mankind.**

**From which tree will you partake?**