

## TYPOLOGY, THE LAST WORD (1967)

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Typology is based on the New Testament conviction that certain ceremonial and historic happenings in the Old Testament were ordained or so overruled by God that they might point to be greater reality to come. The treatment of the Tabernacle, the sacrifices and priesthood by the Hebrews is an example of the first. Jonah, the Israelites in the wilderness, the crossing of the Red Sea or Noah's flood are examples of the second. The use of Melchizedek in Hebrew's 7 is based on the manner in which the Holy Spirit caused the Genesis story to be written.

Typology is in contrast to allegory and stresses the reality of happenings it deals with. It is commended to be used but with restraint. We must, however, beware of finding types where they do not exist and so it may well be to confine ourselves to those sections which the New Testament claims may be used as types else there is a very real danger that the literal meaning is ignored.

The commonest use of Old Testament stories both in the New Testament and in sound Christian exegesis would seem not to be typology by analogy. The basic idea is that since all has been created by God there will be similarities in creation on all levels. Eventually, evil will show itself in essentially similar ways on whatever level it appears. This is the justification for Christ's parables based on nature or on normal human behaviour, and for using life under the old covenant as illustrations of the higher levels of the New Testament.

So the good man of the Old Testament will in some measure foreshadow the perfect man of the New and He should be mirrored in the life of the church or assembly. A man of the Old Testament who did evil must not even be considered as a type of the Lord Jesus or events in any evil man's life cannot be compared with the life of the Lord Jesus.

The true believer must accept the Lord Jesus and His unsullied purity and must not diminish Him by even the slightest comparison to any other.

Typology has its dangers particularly when people say an Old Testament character is a type of Christ and this is insulting and dishonouring to the Lord for He is perfect, sinless and undefiled and the only One who is. Such comparisons are odious. As we have said, we must confine ourselves to those sections in the New Testament where types are permissible to be used.

What think ye of Christ is the test  
To try both your state and your scheme:  
You cannot be right in the rest  
Unless you think rightly of Him.

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