



II. CLASSIFICATIONS OF TYPOLOGY

A. People

1. As a general rule, these types fall into one of two categories.
 - a. Types of Christ
 - (1) Adam
 - (2) Abraham
 - (3) Joseph
 - (4) David
 - (5) Etc.
 - b. Types of the man of sin
 - (1) Cain
 - (2) Absalom
 - (3) Judas
 - (4) Etc.
2. One could argue for exceptions to the rule.
 - a. John the Baptist as a type of Elijah
 - b. Jezebel as a type of Romish religion
 - c. Etc.

B. Events (this would include ceremonies)

1. The most commonly recognized typology in this category is that which points to all or some details relating to the salvation we have in Christ.
 - a. Redemption from Egypt
 - b. The lifting up of the serpent in the wilderness
 - c. Etc.
2. Other events are, at times, foreshadowed in a similar manner.
 - a. Passing through the Red Sea
 - b. The days of Noah and Lot
 - c. Etc.

C. Things

1. Animals (These can picture specific individuals or classifications of people.)
 - a. Lamb
 - b. Dog
 - c. Lion
 - d. Etc.
2. Structures (These can picture other structures, people, or principles of a walk with God).
 - a. The tabernacle
 - b. The furniture of the tabernacle
 - c. The temple
 - d. Etc.



3. Objects (These can picture people, beings, or other objects.)
 - a. Oil
 - b. Water
 - c. Trees
 - d. Etc.
4. Places (These can picture life events, salvation, or principles of the Christian life.)
 - a. The Jordan River
 - b. Cities of refuge

D. Institutions

1. The priesthood
2. Kingdoms
3. The Sabbath
4. Etc.

III. RULES FOR TYPOLOGY

- A. Qualifiers for Typology (Note: This section was adapted from Dake's Annotated Reference Bible. Some of the material is verbatim.)
 1. Unless declared plainly as a type, multiple witnesses should exist.
 - a. There must be multiple points of similarity between type and antitype.
 - b. The type and the antitype cannot be chosen by man, picked out simply because certain details in a record resemble and could be made to fit some future truth.
 - c. The only authority for types and the application of them is scripture itself.
 - (1) More than a mere resemblance is needed to constitute a type.
 - (2) In true typology, no human meaning should be accepted where no positive scripture supports a theory.
 - (3) Mere historical events that bear some resemblance to New Testament truths should not be taken as true types of those truths unless substantiated by two or three plain passages proving a connection.
 2. The type must be treated properly.
 - a. A type has its own meaning apart from the antitype.
 - (1) As such, the literal, historical truths are not to be spiritualized or ignored in order to prove the antitype.
 - (2) All so-called hidden meanings of the words should be avoided, for such a method of explaining only leads to fanciful and confusing interpretations.
 - b. Regarding the recorded details of a type, as in the case of parables, allegories, and symbols, these are not to be stressed; nor are they to be interpreted apart from the antitype. In typology only the intended truth should be emphasized.



- c. Furthermore, plain historical events should not be made typical simply because there are some points of resemblance between them and New Testament truths.
3. The type is almost always if not always inferior to the antitype.
 - a. The type is merely the shadow of the realities to come and not the realities typified.
 - b. The type is always earthly while the antitype could be earthly or heavenly.
4. The type should never be used to teach doctrine not taught directly in regards to the antitype. Only the point or points of resemblance between the type and the antitype should be emphasized; but they should not be used as the basis of other doctrines which they do not typify.

B. Identifiers of Typology

1. Declared by **direct statement**: Look for places in scripture where the Bible boldly states that one thing is a picture of another (Hebrews 10:1).
2. Declared by **comparative terminology**: Look for comparison and contrast in the scripture that might denote one person/thing as a type of another person/thing. Look for the words *like* or *as*.
3. **Not declared**: There are some great types in scripture that are never declared to be types, yet the overwhelming evidence is that one person/thing is a picture of another person/thing.

IV. EXAMPLES OF TYPOLOGY

A. Direct Statement

1. The rock in the wilderness as a type of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4; Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:8-11)
2. The manna in the wilderness as a type of Christ (John 6:31-58)

B. Comparative Terminology

1. Jonah being three days and three nights in the whale's belly AS the Son of man was in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40)
2. The days of Noah AS the days of Christ's second advent (Matthew 24:37)
3. Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness AS the Son of man was to be lifted up on the cross (John 3:14)

C. Undeclared

1. Joseph as a type of Christ (Genesis 50:20)
2. Leaven as a type of sin or corrupt doctrine (Matthew 16:6, 11-12; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9)