

# OLD UNION MINISTERS' SCHOOL 2003

## INSTRUCTIVE TYPES

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### SCRIPTURE LESSON – Hebrews 9:19-24

**INTRODUCTION** – In reading the New Testament, “**our rule of Faith and Practice**”, we find many references to certain events which took place in the Old Testament. These events involved many persons. They occurred at different times and places, and, various objects were used in these events. These events taught great lessons to those who experienced them. Many of these events and experiences are declared to be **types and shadows**, for the time then present (during the dispensation of the law, and before) These events pre-figured things which would be revealed in the dispensation of grace, especially with reference to the Person and Work of Christ, and His Church. (His Spiritual Kingdom)

Here are two very familiar passages relating to this subject: “*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things...*” (Hebrews 10:1) and, the reference to the tabernacle, “*Which was a figure for the time then present.*” (Hebrews 9:9) These and other scriptures support the following definitions.

### -- DEFINING THE SUBJECT TITLE --

**INSTRUCTIVE** – imparting information; conveying knowledge; providing enlightenment

**TYPE** – an example or model; a figure or representation

**“A type is a shadow cast on the pages of Old Testament history by a truth whose full embodiment or antitype is found in the New Testament revelation.” (Bakers Dictionary of Theology)**

Other words that are interchangeable with the word **TYPE** or **TYPES** are:

**SHADOW** – the rough image cast by an object; an imperfect imitation, or copy.

**FIGURE** – diagram; design; or pattern.

The types and shadows of the Old Testament must be distinguished from the parables, metaphors, and allegories found in the New Testament.

**All of the types and shadows of the Old Testament are instructive in nature and, they are predicated upon the terms of the “EVERLASTING COVENANT”.** The “Everlasting Covenant” established the **true and real** provisions for redemption, (which were represented by the types, as examples) and it brought into being the real substance, which caused the shadows to appear.

## **THE EVERLASTING COVENANT**

The first revelation of the “Everlasting Covenant” was spoken in a mystery, in the Garden of Eden, by God Himself. God said to Satan, in the presence of Adam and Eve, and I believe, for their benefit, and ours also, ***“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*** (Genesis 3:15) The first type, of the Old Testament, was predicated upon that promise, and, an example was brought into view, by a blood sacrifice, when ***“the Lord God made coats of skins, and clothed them.”*** (Genesis 3:21)

Adam and Eve had knowledge, of the wages of sin, (Genesis 2:16-17) but had no knowledge of any plan of redemption, until after they had transgressed God’s law.

God, then revealed the plan which was already in place (1 Peter 1:18-21) whereby, they could receive forgiveness for their sins, and be at peace with God. (Colossians 1:19-21) He illustrated that plan by shedding the blood of an innocent animal, (no doubt a lamb) in order to provide a covering for their conscious nakedness. (Guilt of sin)

**To my knowledge, that was the beginning of the use of types and shadows to teach and instruct people about the provisions of the Everlasting Covenant. But it was not the last.**

## **THE EVERLASTING COVENANT IS A COVENANT OF GRACE**

The covenant, referred to as the “Old Covenant”, was a covenant of works. God presented it to national Israel in the wilderness, through Moses: This was a binding agreement, and they subscribed to it. They said, ***“All that the Lord hath said we will do.”*** This covenant was ratified by the sprinkling of the blood of an animal (Exodus 24:3-8) However, Israel did not live up to her part of the agreement. Therefore the covenant was faulty. (Hebrews 8:7)

The “Everlasting Covenant” (known also as the New Covenant) is a covenant of grace. It made provisions to redeem sinful humanity. This covenant was made in the counsel halls of Glory. (Acts 2:22-24) The terms of the covenant required ***“obedience unto death, even the death of the cross”***, (Philippians 2:8) by God the Son, as a man. It also required the faithfulness of God the Father, to keep his promise, (Titus 1:2) and it required the power of God the Holy Spirit, to regenerate, and give life. (John 3:3)

**This covenant was ratified with the precious blood of Christ, (See the lesson text) and men in all ages have come under the benefits of this covenant, *“... through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Christ:”* (1 Peter 1:2)**

Some say, the New Covenant was not in force until after the death of Christ. (That is a wrong interpretation of Hebrews 9:15-17) Notice, ***“And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressors that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”***

**No one in any dispensation could be saved by the life of Christ. It took the death of Christ; God set forth Christ Jesus, *“... to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness***

**for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.” (Romans 3:25) “and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22)**

**“...The Lord sware, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec: By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.” (Hebrews 7:21-21) Jesus agreed to die for our sins, and his promises was just as sure and efficacious before his death as it was after his death.**

**Therefore** -The Old Testament saints were saved when they looked, by faith, to the promised Saviour. I don't know how much they understood about his coming, but they knew enough to trust in him. Jesus said, **“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it, and was glad.”** (John 8:56) It is not the book of Genesis that tells us this, but it is the Lord Jesus himself.

**Much of their knowledge, concerning Christ; his coming into the world, and his work of redemption, was obtained from the lessons taught through the types and shadows.**

### **INTERPRETING TYPES**

We must keep in mind some very simple guidelines as we interpret types and shadows.

- 1. True types are historical events. That is, they really did take place.**
- 2. True types were, and are, also prophetic in nature, because they point to Christ and his work in one way or another.**
- 3. Types are not afterthoughts with God.**
- 4. Types retain their significance, even after the antitype has appeared.**
- 5. Types have spiritual meaning, information and enlightenment, in both dispensations.**
- 6. True types are backed by the authority of the New Testament.**
- 7. True types are confirmed by plain evidence supported by New Testament doctrine, and, New Testament doctrine supports them.**

### **A FEW OF THE TYPES AND THEIR TEACHINGS**

**Adam is said to be a figure of Christ.** The first Adam represents all of his natural descendents and through him sin is charged to all of his posterity. (Romans 5:12-14) Christ is called the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). He represents all of his spiritual descendents. As the sin of Adam was imputed to his natural seed, the righteousness of Jesus is imputed to his spiritual seed. Adam is the head of the natural generations and Christ is the head of the spiritual regenerations.

**The sacrifices of Cain and Able** -The sacrifice which Able offered showed that the only true access to God and worship is through faith in the blood of the lamb. The rejection of Cain's offering showed that we cannot approach God through the works of our own hands. These are very important lessons, taught by type, to the first family.

**The Ark was a figure of salvation in Christ,** because, eight people were saved from destruction by it. Peter said, **“baptism is a like figure”** (also a figure) (1 Peter 3:20-21) The Lesson this historical event teaches is; that God will judge sin; but one can obtain salvation by the grace of God, and be safe from destruction, by entering into the ark, prepared for that purpose.

Many Old Testament individuals had incidents, or experiences, in their lives which prefigured some event in the life and ministry of Christ.

For example; Abraham offering his son, of promise, as a sacrifice, is a type of what God did.

Isaac, being willing to be sacrificed, is a type of Christ's willingness to die for us. The ram, in the thicket, which was offered in Isaac's stead, is type, of Jesus as our substitute.

Jacob's vision of "a ladder which set upon the earth, and the top of it reached into heaven, and the angels of God ascending and descending on it" (Genesis 28:12-13) was a type of Jesus. It showed Jesus as the only access to heaven. (John 1:51)

The "bondage of Egypt" was a type of the bondage of sin. It was the blood of the "Passover Lamb" that provided safety and protection from the death angel, and, was a type of the precious blood of Christ. And "the miraculous deliverance from Egypt", by the power of God, is a type of our salvation.

The choosing of national Israel, as the old covenant people of God, was a type of spiritual Israel, the new covenant people of God.

The wilderness journey, with all of the trials, and the battles, in Canaan, was a type of the trials, conflicts, battles, and victories of the Christian life. The manna from heaven, and the water from the rock, was a type of Christ, who is the bread and water of spiritual life.

Moses and Joshua were both types of Christ, in the execution of their respective offices. And Jonah's experience, in being delivered from the belly of the great fish, was a type of the resurrection of Christ.

**There are many other examples to numerous to mention.**

### **THE TABERNACLE AS A TYPE**

**The tabernacle, with all of it's attending details, provide more types, figures, and shadows of Christ and his redemptive work, than perhaps any other source.**

The Tabernacle wasn't much to look at on the outside. The prophet said, of him, "***he hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him there is no beauty, that we should desire him.***" (Isaiah 53:2) However, the inside was beautiful to look upon.

It was indeed the place where God promised to live among his people. (Exodus 25:8)

It was to be made according to a pattern, which had been shown to Moses, while in the Mount. **This was to serve as a shadow of heavenly things already in existence.** It was a type of Jesus, the one who would come down from heaven, and dwelt among men. (John 1:14)

Jesus said, "***I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man can come to the father except by me.***" (John 14:6) He also said, "***I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.***" (John 10:9)

**For any person to go to heaven he must go by way of Christ and everything about the tabernacle pictured the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The two-fold nature, both human and divine, are represented by the wood overlaid with pure gold.

The most holy place, where the high priest went alone, to sprinkle the blood of his sacrifice, is a picture of Heaven itself.

**Every article of furniture, in that tabernacle, pictured Jesus.**

The brazen altar, where the blood was poured out and the body of the sacrifice was consumed, was a shadow of the cross. The word “altar” signifies “to lift up”. (John 12:32)

The brass laver, where the priest washed their hands, signifies the sanctifying power of Christ.

Passing through the one door, we enter the holy place, where we see the golden candlestick, and Jesus said, ***I am the light of the world*** (John 8:12);

In this holy place we find the table of shewbread, and Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35)

We also find the altar of incense, which pictures the intercessory prayers of Jesus.

The veil represented his flesh (Hebrews 10:20)

Within the veil we find the ark of the Covenant where the law of God was kept. Jesus is the only one who ever kept the law of God perfectly. He said, ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.”***

The ark was covered over with the mercy seat, and, it is his mercy that saves us from the penalty we face, as transgressors of God’s law. ***“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost:”*** (Titus 3:5)

**The sacrifices which were offered, in the rituals of ceremonial worship, pictured Jesus in some aspect of his work as Saviour, and the practice of offering them, showed their faith in the promise of what the sacrifices represented.**

Jesus was made a priest, for ever, after the order of Melchisedec, King of Salem, and priest of the most High God, and not after the Levitical order. The Levitical priests were installed by the law of a carnal commandment. But Jesus was made an high Priest after the power of an endless life.

**He is the only High Priest, and the only mediator between God and man.**

Please read Hebrews, chapter seven in its entirety.