

David’s Prophetic Life

What is typology?

A special kind of symbolism... [where] a person or thing in the Old Testament foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. (Definition adapted from gotquestions.org)

It comes from the Greek word “τύπος” (tupos) which means “pattern.”

Nonbiblical examples

Archetype: Foot or horseback messengers → Telegraph → Telephone → Internet

Prototype: The arithmometer → Graphing calculator

Biblical examples

Animal sacrifice for sin → Christ’s death on the cross.

The temple (God’s dwelling with his people) → God in Christ walking among us in the incarnation

The promised land → New heaven and earth

The flood → baptism (1 Peter 3:21)

David’s kingship as a type of Christ

Understanding typology reveals that that David is not just a prophet who spoke about Jesus, but also that his life itself prophetically foreshadows Christ.

Christ as Brother

Vs. 1 – All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood.”

This is a *type* of the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

He sympathizes with us

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil...

He has the same responsibilities as us

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

EFCA Statement of Faith “We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.” (See Romans 5:19)

This makes Christ our brother.

Christ as Shepherd

Vs. 2 – *In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, “You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.”*

David’s kingship is a *type* of the ultimate shepherd-king, Jesus.

A king that is for the people

John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

A king that provides for all of our needs

Christ as Covenant Keeper

Vs. 3 – *So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.*

David’s covenant with Israel is a type of Christ’s covenant with us.

Translating it correctly

Literally “cut a covenant” – definitely not “make a compact” (NIV)

The origin story of Old Testament covenants

Genesis 15:9-18, Jeremiah 34:18

Christ’s covenant with us

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How does typology show us who Christ is? Can you think of any other Old Testament types that are fulfilled in the New Testament?
2. Why is it important that Jesus shared in flesh and blood with us?
3. How is a shepherd king different than a normal king “like all the nations have?”
4. What is the good news of Jesus being covenantally bound to us? How is this a rock-solid foundation?