

Types and Illustrations of Jesus

CHRIST

in the

OLD TESTAMENT

12 OLD TESTAMENT
PEOPLE WHO
FORESHADOWED CHRIST

ACTIONS & EVENTS
THAT ANTICIPATED JESUS

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Christ

CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

CHRIST is the key to what God had been pointing to in all the history of God's people.

One way to see this is to examine parallels between Old Testament people, events, and things, and the life of Jesus in the New Testament.

We find some of these parallels in Romans 5. Paul writes that sin entered into the world through one man, Adam, and sin led to death for all men, for all have sinned. He also writes that Adam was a figure of someone who was to come (Romans 5:12).

Paul said that if the sin of one person, Adam, would cause many to die, how much more could the gift of God's grace, by one person—Jesus Christ, cause many to be righteous and have eternal life!

The Bible is full of these parallels or "types." The study of "types" is called typology. In the example above, this method (typology) calls Adam the type and Christ the antitype (opposite).

Adam

ADAM (Genesis 2–3)

Adam was the first human God created. He was responsible to care for the Garden of Eden. His disobedience of God’s commandment introduced sin and death, so humanity and all of creation became corrupted by sin.

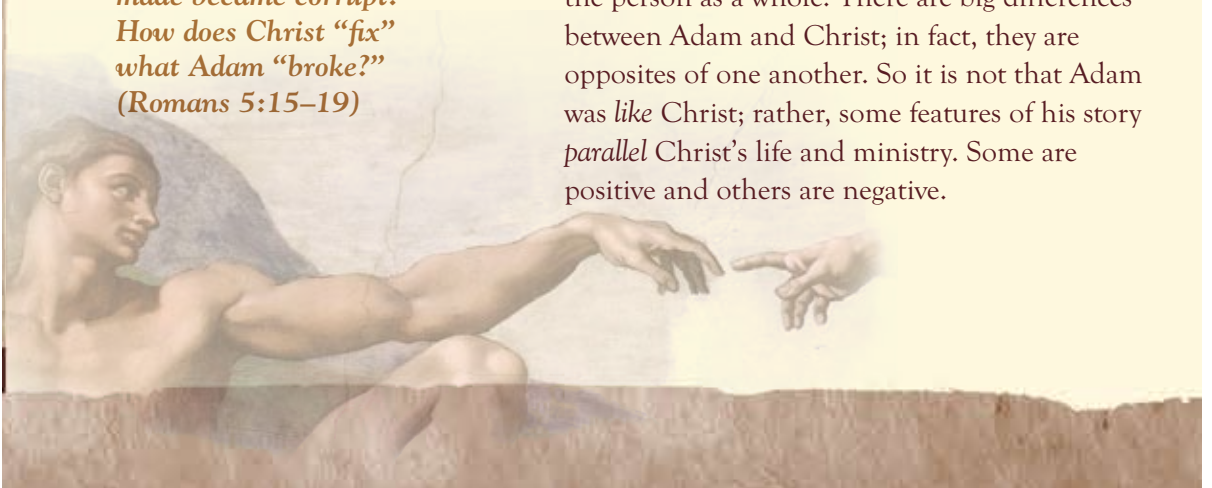
ADAM	CHRIST
Adam was the first person in this creation.	In his resurrection, Jesus is the first person in this New Creation (1 Corinthians 15:23).
Adam was called the son of God (Luke 3:38).	Christ is the Son of God (John 1:14).
Adam was God’s administrator or ruler (Genesis 1:28).	Christ is God’s Anointed to be King (Matthew 1:16).
Adam was the head of the race (Genesis 3:20).	Christ Jesus is the Head of the New Creation (Romans 5:12–24).
His actions brought consequences to his children causing them to inherit sin and death (Genesis 3:16–19).	His actions brought consequences to God’s children causing them to inherit righteousness and life (Romans 5:12–19, 1 Corinthians 15:20–22, 45–49).
Adam joined Eve and rebelled against God (Genesis 3:6).	Christ redeemed his bride (the church) by obeying God (Revelation 19:7–9).
Adam’s shame required the death of an animal to cover it (Genesis 3:21).	Christ was shamed, stripped and slain to cover our shame (Matthew 27:27–35).
Instead of closeness with God, we experience isolation and loneliness. Instead of love and care for each other, we experience violence and hatred.	Through Christ’s redemptive action, we can experience true life, a close relationship with God and his love, and care for others.

QUESTIONS

Because of Adam’s sin, the good world God made became corrupt. How does Christ “fix” what Adam “broke?” (Romans 5:15–19)

ADAM is a good first example of a *type*.

It shows very clearly that typology focuses on specific events or character traits rather than on the person as a whole. There are big differences between Adam and Christ; in fact, they are opposites of one another. So it is not that Adam was *like* Christ; rather, some features of his story *parallel* Christ’s life and ministry. Some are positive and others are negative.



Noah

NOAH (Genesis 6–9)

When God had decided to destroy the world with a flood as a punishment for humanity’s sin, God chose Noah and his family to save them from the flood. Noah built an ark to save the animals.

NOAH	CHRIST
Noah was a kind of “second Adam” since all living human beings come from him (Genesis 8:15–9:17).	Christ is called “the second man” (Adam) since eternal life can only be found in him (1 Corinthians 15:47).
Noah’s ark provided refuge for all kinds of animals (Genesis 6:19–7:5).	Christ’s body (the church) provides salvation for all, both Jew and Gentile (Romans 11:11; Galatians 3:28–29).
Human evil had reached an unacceptable high. So God decided to undo his creation with a flood (Genesis 6:6–7).	When the time is right for God, he will undo his creation by fire (2 Peter 3:12–13) to re-create it (Revelation 21:1).
Noah’s ark was delivered from the flood waters (Genesis 7:7).	Christ’s body (the church) was delivered from death through the water of baptism (1 Peter 3:21).
Noah offered a sacrifice of blood (Genesis 8:20–9:6).	Christ offered himself as a sacrifice (1 Peter 1:18–19).
Noah’s ark came to rest on Mount Ararat on the Jewish month of Nisan 17 (Genesis 8:4).	Christ’s resurrection took place on Nisan 17 (which corresponds to the month of March or April).
Although Noah was not perfect, he is described as a “righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God” (Genesis 6:9).	Jesus was the perfect, blameless man (Hebrews 4:15).

QUESTIONS

Each of us is a bit like Noah. See 2 Peter 3:12–14.

We too know this world will end. How should we live today?

What made Noah a “righteous man” even though his life was far from perfect?

