

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

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## DAY EIGHT – INTERPRETING TYPES

*"And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, [Jesus] explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." (Luke 24:27)*

How great it would have been to have attend that Bible study! Jesus went through the whole Old Testament revealing all the things it taught about Him! I'm sure he referred to all the obvious prophecies (starting with Genesis 3:15) and teachings about the coming Messiah. However that was only part of what the Scriptures said "concerning Himself." Much of what He told His followers that day were what we call *types* today.

A *type* is a physical event, person or object in the Old Testament which communicates a spiritual truth which is fully explained in the New Testament. The physical events were real, but in addition to what they obviously were to the people in their day, they carried a picture of a spiritual truth not then fully expressed.

A *type* is like a shadow which you see before the person, event or object itself is seen. It is like seeing a shadow come around a corner of a building before the person making the shadow appears. Shadows are hard to identify for they are unclear, showing only rough outlines. When the person is seen, then there is more appreciation for what the shadow was. That's what a *type* is. For example, before Jesus referred to the first prophecy about Himself in Genesis (3:15), he explained about how the animals killed so their skins could be used to cover Adam and Eve after their sin in the Garden of Eden was a picture of what He would do on the cross – die so his blood would cover our sins. Man can't cover his sin with the works of his hands (as Adam and Even originally used fig leaves), only as innocent blood is shed (the animals whose skins they wore) can sin be covered. Man is helpless, he only receives the covering. But he must receive it or it won't do him any good. This *type* is carried out in the whole Old Testament animal sacrificial system. While those using it in the Old Testament didn't understand all about Jesus' work on the cross, they did know they were at the mercy of a holy God whose only provision for their sin was innocent blood being shed. This was the shadow before the event, not as clear but certainly containing the basic truths of it all. Adam himself was called a "type" of Jesus according to Paul (Romans 5:14).

The Bible is full of types, and the richness they add to our understanding of New Testament truth is astounding. God uses types to illustrate and make alive points of doctrine the same way your pastor uses stories and illustrations in his sermons. They are like windows to let light in so you can see a subject more clearly. Jesus used Jonah (dead 3 days then back to life) as a *type*/illustration of what would happen to Him (Mt. 12:39).

In fact, the whole Old Testament is an acting-out of the spiritual truths in the New Testament. Man is sinful (Genesis), under the power of the world (Egypt), the flesh (themselves) and the devil (Pharaoh). Only God can deliver them, and He does so by blood (Passover) and power (Red Sea opened). They are given a new life with God's Presence with them and to guide them (Shekinah Glory in the cloud that lead the Israelites through the dessert). They are to live holy, obedient lives. When they do so, there is victory and blessing. When they don't, there is defeat and no blessing. This is the story line of the Old Testament physically, and the story line of our lives spiritually. By understanding the Old Testament picture we can better see and appreciate the New Testament doctrines.

Augustine said, "In the Old the New lies hidden; in the New the Old stands revealed." We need them both for a full, clear picture. Understanding types is the key to bringing them both together. Use the following list of types. Ask God's Spirit to reveal these truths to you as you develop these wonderful truths from God.

*In your Spiritual Journal:*

Here are a few more types mentioned in scripture. Read the passages associated with them.

*Jonah:* Christ to die, and raise after 3 days Mt 12:39

*Joseph:*

- Special objects of Father's Love Gen 37:3, Mt 3:17
- Hated by brethren Gen 37:4, Jn 15:25
- Superior claims rejected Gen 27:8; Mt 21:37-39
- Brethren conspired to slay Gen 37:18; Mt 26:3-4
- Slain by brethren Gen 37:24; Mt 27:35-37
- Blessing among Gentiles, obtained a Gentile Bride Gen 41:4-41; Acts 15:14; Eph 5:25-32
- Reconciled Brethren to self & then exalted them Gen 45:15; Dt. 30:1-10; Rom 11:1,15,25-26

*Kinsman-Redeemer:* Ruth

- Was a persons & an inheritance Lev 25:25;48; Gal 4:5
- Must be a kinsman Lev 25:48-9; Ruth 3:12-13; Gal 4:4; Heb 2:14
- Must be able to redeem Ruth 4:4-6; Jn 10:11,18
- Must pay the just demand in full Lev 25:27, Gal 13:13