

## TYPES

The English word “type” comes from the Greek “tupos.” It is used 15 times in the New Testament, and it is translated in various ways. It basically refers to a pattern or an example. There is always a correspondence or a resemblance. One thing is used to resemble another, to answer to it in some way. The word “tupos” does not always suggest a theological type. In fact, the only occurrence of “tupos” which is related to a prefiguring in the Old Testament of something in the New Testament is Hebrews 8:5, where priests are an example (tupos) of earthly things. Types are of various kinds: persons, events, objects, institutions, places, and offices.

Sterrett defines a type as a divinely purposed Old Testament foreshadowing of New Testament reality, and he makes three key points concerning types.

1. The type is divinely purposed. The Scriptures must plainly show that God has established the correspondence between the type and its fulfillment. When the New Testament draws a parallel there is no question, but if the New Testament makes no mention of it, then we must be careful. In such a case the correspondence must be so clear that there is no reasonable doubt. We cannot depend upon our own imaginations to establish a type.
2. The type is in the old Testament, and the fulfillment (antitype) is in the New Testament. The type itself is not evident until it becomes obvious in the New Testament.
3. The type is a shadow of something or someone to come. An example of this is the tabernacle. It existed as a portable shrine for the Israelites to come before God in worship, yet it also points forward to Christ as the only way to approach God.

In the next lesson we will look at examples of types