

IV. Special Hermeneutics

Here we are concerned with problems raised by particular aspects of the biblical literature.

A. Typology

1. Definition: a person, object, event, or institution in the history of redemption which foreshadows a later person, object, event, or institution (the antitype) in the history of redemption.

The Greek word for "type" (τύπος) occurs 14 times in the NT, but only two of these occurrences have the technical sense which concerns us here: Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 10:6.

2. The problem of authorial intent (sensus plenior, "the fuller sense")

Typology offers some of the stickiest wickets regarding the meaning of biblical language. We have defined meaning thus far in terms of authorial intent: the concern for the exegete is *to search out what the author intended*. We have used this perspective to critique allegorical approaches to Scripture. Allegorization is faulty because it proposes meanings *which probably were not part of the author's intention*.

But what of the status of typology? Is it likely that the biblical authors understood the prospective (typical) status of (all) the things they described? For example:

Num. 21:4-9 cf. Jn. 3:14-15 Christ's use of ~~the~~ Moses' serpent in the wilderness

Gen. 6:9-8:22 cf. 1 Pet. 3:18-21 Peter's use of Noah & the Flood for baptism & salvation

Psa. 2:7 cf. Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5 Psalm 2 (seeming to refer in OT to Davidic King) used in NT

Hosea 11:1 cf. Matt. 2:15 Israel's deliverance by Moses from Egypt being used in NT to refer to Jesus, Mary, & Joseph going to Egypt

If there is, at least in some of these cases, a meaning which was not part of the author's intent, can we any longer maintain the distinction between typology and allegory? Most scholars today answer in the affirmative. I agree with them and offer two observations:

- a. Typology is concerned with history - looks for historical correspondence.
Eg: A real Moses put a real brazen serpent on a pole, just like Jesus was really hung on a cross
- b. Type is intended, but it was Divinely intended