

Corresponding to *that...*



A study of events, places, and objects in the Old Testament that foreshadowed events, places, and objects in the New Testament.

by: Chris Eppler

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Corresponding to *that...* (note)

This work has been made with the hope that together we can search the scripture and develop a greater understanding of it. Hopefully, it will make your study of this topic more edifying, more profitable, and more enjoyable. It is not intended to take the place of your responsibility to prepare for the studies. Please devote adequate time to the material before our study, so we can all be edified by one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

All verse references are taken from the New American Standard Bible 1995 unless otherwise noted.

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Introduction

IN PREPARATION

Read 1 Peter 3.

What do you think verse 15 means by “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts”?

What does verse 19 say Jesus did after He was put to death?

Why does verse 20 say that God waited for so long before sending the flood?

What does verse 21 say corresponds to the days of Noah?

Corresponding to that...

1 Peter 3:21 is an oft quoted passage to demonstrate the purpose of baptism. However, those first few words, “Corresponding to that”, tend to be overlooked. What does Peter mean by those words and what is his point in using them? You will note that it is worded differently in King James based translations. The King James version says “the like figure”. This statement gives us more information. We are talking about a figure of speech here. The New King James version is the most literal on this occasion. It reads “there is also an antitype”. The word antitype is simply a transliteration from the Greek. That is, it is the Greek word that has been transferred into English characters and style.

Putting all this information together, we see from our example that Noah’s salvation from the flood was a type or figure of baptism, the antitype. As we consider verses 20 and 21 together, the picture becomes clearer. There were two groups of people in the days of Noah. The majority who were disobedient and died in the flood and the minority, Noah and his family, who were obedient and brought safely through the water. Baptism is the antitype. It corresponds to Noah and the flood in the same way. Today there are two groups of people. There is the disobedient majority who refuse the saving water of baptism and die because of it and there is the obedient minority who are saved through baptism by the removal of their sin made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

The type is the original person, place, thing or event and the antitype is later person, place, thing or event that corresponds to the former. The original is a figure that gives us insight into the later. As with Noah and baptism, this is a very powerful



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argument against those that would demote baptism to simply a symbol. It helps us to understand that just as Noah was saved by water, so are we. Baptism is not merely a symbol, but the point at which God bestows the grace of salvation.

There are many type/antitype relationships that are presented in the Bible to illustrate New Testament principles. Over the course of this study we will look at some of the major ones that help us understand some of the foundational principles needed to get to Heaven.

Dangers

As with any figurative language, there is danger involved. It is easy to misuse the illustration if we are not careful to keep it in its original scope. Here we will consider a couple of rules that will help us to understand the type/antitype relationship without abusing it.

Firstly, we should only identify something as a type/antitype relationship that the scripture has identified. As with the connection between the flood and baptism, the scripture spells out these relationships. Sometimes we may find correlations between passages that we find interesting and that is just fine. It is good that we have studied to a point where we are seeing similarities between events. However, this is not the same as a relationship between items that the scripture clearly identifies. We may think a perceived connection is interesting and it may help us to remember the events more clearly. This is very different from a connection that God's word identifies and uses to illustrate a point. We need to see the type/antitype relationship as something established by God to help us more clearly understand a later item by using a former.

Secondly, when we locate a type/antitype relationship that God has identified, we need to be careful to only carry the relationship as far as the Bible does. One of the easiest ways to abuse figurative language is to carry it beyond the scope that the author intended. If we go back to I Peter 3, this can be illustrated. I remember hearing a lesson a number of times growing up about the planks in Noah's ark. The lesson was based on I Peter 3. The lesson ended up speaking of what the wood in the ark represented and so forth. There is a real



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problem here. God has not attributed any meaning to the wood used or the single window or the single door. I Peter 3 simply says that just as Noah was saved by obedience and water, so are we. If we try to add more to the illustration than God, we are misusing the relationship and going beyond what is written. While our point may be valid, this approach is not a valid way of getting to that point.

The type/antitype relationship is almost like a hybrid of the parable figure and the allegory figure. In a parable there is a story told that supports one main point. The details of the parable are not necessarily important, they are just there to complete the story. With the type/antitype relationship, there is also a main point that the writer is trying to illustrate. As with the Noah illustration, the main point is that we are saved by water as was he and his family. If we try to make sub-points from the details of a parable, we can end up in all kinds of bad places. Consider the parable of the unjust steward in Luke 16. So many times people try to reconcile how God is like the master in this parable. It leads people to a point where they are trying to make excuse for God condoning evil! This is an abuse of the text because that is not how a parable works. The same can happen with a type/antitype relationship.

It is also like an allegory in some ways. In an allegory, all of the individual elements of the story generally have some meaning and that is spelled out. Galatians 4:21-31 records an allegory. Notice verse 24. "This is allegorically speaking." What is represented by the following in this allegory?

Sarah? _____ Hagar? _____

Ishmael? _____ Isaac? _____

Sinai? _____ Zion? _____

All the elements of this allegory have meaning. There are even some parables that operate in the same way. Matthew 13 records the sower parable. The Lord gives the meaning to the disciples later on. In this parable, the sower, the seed, the ground, and the birds all have



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meaning. It is a parable that operates more like an allegory. The type/antitype relationship is similar. All the elements of it will generally have meaning and they will be spelled out by the writer. As with the allegory, it is a previous person, place, thing or event that is used to illustrate the point, whereas the parable is generally just a made up story to illustrate a point.

When we put this together, we find that the type/antitype relationship has a main point that is illustrated using real historical elements that have meaning as specified in the text. If we are careful to only make connections where the scripture does and then limit those connections to what has been enumerated by the writer, then there is much to gain from studying these relationships.

Why are they so important?

The importance of the type/antitype relationship cannot be overstated. It gets to the heart of what the purpose of the Old Testament is for us today. I Corinthians 10:13 explains that the Old Testament and its events are an example for us today. Romans 15:4 tells us that the scripture written in earlier times was written for our instruction. The Old Testament is not intended to be law to us today (Hebrews 8:13), but it is to be an example. It shows us how God interacts with His people. It shows us the mind of God. It shows us through example what the purpose is of the events of the New Testament.

The type/antitype relationship is a major tool used by God to illustrate this purpose. Going back to Peter's flood illustration, the familiar event of the flood is used to establish the purpose of New Testament baptism for us. Going to Galatians 4, Paul's allegory illustrates for us that Christians are the children of promise and that freedom is in Christ and the church. These type/antitype illustrations use familiar events to solidify New Testament concepts in our minds. When we look back and realize that the people, places, things and events in our Old Testament were often foreshadowing the things of substance in the New Testament, our understanding and our faith grow much deeper. It is one thing to know that Jesus died for our sin. It is entirely another to understand why!



Two Adams

IN PREPARATION

Read I Corinthians 15.

Who is the first Adam? Who is the last Adam?

What does Paul use the first Adam to represent?

What does Paul use the second Adam to represent?

What do you think it means that we “will also bear the image of the heavenly” in verse 49?

Adam a type of Jesus?

“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.” ~ Romans 5:14

Paul’s statement to the Romans may be a surprise to you. How could it be that Adam who brought death into this world is a type of our Savior? Here is a man who was given one negative command by God, “Do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden or touch it or you will die.” He and his wife disobeyed that commandment, touched and ate from the tree and brought death into the world. Physical death was brought on mankind from that day forward and separation from God began. This action brought about the need for salvation to all mankind! Yet, Paul says Adam was a type of Jesus.

This illustrates a point for us with regard to the type/antitype relationship. We learn from this relationship that the type/antitype figure is accomplished not only through two similar things, but also can be accomplished through two contrasting things. In this case, Adam is a type of Christ not because he is like Jesus, but because he is the opposite.

Who is this man, Adam?

Genesis 2-3 records God creating man and woman and placing them in the garden. Take some time to read through the account of the creation and subsequent fall of man in these chapters and answer the following questions. List references.

Using your concordance, what does the name “Adam” mean and why did God call the man this?



Two Adams

What does Eve's name mean and why did Adam choose it?

How did Adam become a living being?

Man was made in God's _____. What do you think this means?

God said they would die that day but they lived. How is this possible?

What was man supposed to do when they left the garden?

Jesus, the Antitype

We turn our focus to 1 Corinthians 15 at this point. Paul told the Romans that Adam was a type of Christ and at 1 Corinthians 15 he is going to explain how. Paul is writing the first letter to the Corinthians to deal with a number of problems they were having. They were being shaken by those speaking evil of Paul, they were dividing, they were not dealing with discipline issues as they should, they had marriage questions, they had problems with the covering and the Lord's Supper and they were having chaotic assemblies due to those mishandling their spiritual gifts. Needless to say, there were many very severe problems in Corinth. However, at chapter 15 Paul deals with the most insidious problem of all. There were some that were denying the resurrection! (1 Corinthians 15:12) Not only did this not make sense because of the eyewitness testimony and the implications the resurrection of Jesus had on the average saint, it was a doctrine that undermined the entire gospel!



Two Adams

Read I Corinthians 15 and answer the following questions.

What did Paul deliver to the Corinthian saints as a matter of first importance? Why?

If saints are not raised and Christ was not raised, what does this make the gospel?

What is the last enemy that will be abolished? What surety of this do we have?

What implication does no resurrection have on the martyrs? (verses 32)

Paul begins writing about Adam and Jesus at verse 20. He calls Jesus the “first fruits of those who are asleep”. This statement means that Jesus was the first to be resurrected. Since He was resurrected, we know that we can be also. It is at this point that Paul explains to us the type/antitype relationship between Adam and Jesus. He says at verse 21 that the first Adam brought death while Christ brought life. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, we all can expect to die at one point. We will labor for a period of time in this world and then lay that labor down. It did not have to be this way. Genesis 3 demonstrates that they had access to the tree of life, but chose instead to partake of the tree that God had forbid access. They brought the curse of physical death upon us through their actions. Jesus, on the other hand, came for the express purpose of bringing life. He paid His blood as the price for us all to be redeemed and reconciled to God.

Paul goes on in verses 22-28 to further explain the antitype, Jesus. While those that are in Adam die, in Christ all will be made alive. Christ was the first, then will be those that are



Two Adams

His, then finally the rest. It is at this point that Jesus will deliver the kingdom back over to the Father, because at this point the last enemy, death, will have been vanquished. What exactly it means for the kingdom to be delivered back to the Father we do not know. We just know that it will happen.

Paul's first discussion of the "two Adams" establishes the fact that Jesus came to undo the damage done by the first. Adam brought death, but Jesus came to bring life. At verse 42 Paul enters into the second discussion of the two Adams with a different purpose now. Notice verse 35. What is one argument used by some to dispute the resurrection?

Paul answers this with the second "two Adams" discussions. He uses Adam as a symbol of the physical and then uses Jesus as a symbol of the Heavenly. We all have a physical body just as was Adam. We are made in the likeness of Adam. As was previously discussed, Adam brought death into the world. Like Adam, we will all die. However, that is not the end. It is at that point that we can be remade into the likeness of the second Adam, Jesus. Jesus is from Heaven and like He has a heavenly body, so we too will have a heavenly body in the resurrection.

The argument against the resurrection said that since the body disintegrates in the ground then it is impossible to raise. Paul is pointing out that we are made in the likeness of Adam and like Adam return to dust. However, in the resurrection we will be like Jesus. We will be given spiritual bodies that can inherit the kingdom of God. As he mentions early beginning with verse 36, we are like seed. You do not plant an ear of corn but rather the bare grain. It springs up into corn after being sown. We are the same way. In death our physical body is planted, but in the resurrection it will be different, the true essence.

Adam is a type of Jesus. Not because he is like Jesus, but because he is the opposite of Jesus. We thank God that one day we will shed the likeness of Adam, leave this world where death is passed on from him, and put on incorruption to be with the Lord!



Received Back

IN PREPARATION

Read Genesis 22.

What was Abraham commanded to do with his son Isaac?

Why did God command this? (22:1)

How would you describe Abraham's response to the command of God?

What was Isaac's question and his father's response?

Three Promises

Abraham was a man who acted when God commanded. God had promised him from the beginning that if he would obey Jehovah and walk by faith, then God would bless him with three promises. Read Genesis 18 and write the three promises made to Abraham on the blanks provided below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In light of these promises one thing was certain, Abraham was going to need a child. These promises were made to Abraham at Genesis 12 when he was seventy-five years old. He was no young man at this point. His wife Sarah was ten years younger than him, so this promise was made when she was sixty-five. We often talk about how she was past the years of child-bearing when Isaac came, but in reality she was likely past the years of child-bearing when the promises were made originally, not to mention the fact that they had been married long enough that she was recognized as barren! God was talking about a miracle from the beginning it would seem.

Abraham waited for this promised son for twenty-five years. He and Sarah tried to fix God's plan by producing a child with her bondservant, Hagar, after a decade of waiting, but that was not God's plan. Abraham would have a son by normal means with his wife Sarah. Finally, when Abraham is ninety-nine years old he is told that within the year Sarah would produce a son. That son would be Isaac.



Received Back

It is hard to imagine the elation of Abraham and Sarah at the birth of their child. All these years they have been waiting after had resigned themselves to not having a child. Then, as God has promised, that long waited for child comes. The name Isaac means “he laughs”. No doubt it would have been somewhat comical for a man one-hundred years old and his ninety year old wife to have a child. While those around may have laughed at the situation, Abraham and Sarah laughed joyously.

What did Abraham do with Isaac according to Genesis 21:4?

What does Genesis 21:8 say of Isaac?

Just as it is hard to imagine their elation at his birth, it is inconceivable to imagine their dismay at the Lord’s command at Genesis 22:2. This son for whom they had waited all those years was to be offered as a burnt offering! God did this to test Abraham according to verse one.

What does Genesis 22:6 say Isaac did and what does this indicate about Isaac?

Abraham, being the faithful man that he was, arose early the next day to do as the Lord would have him do. This is something we always see of faithful men in our Bible. They did not put off the Lord’s command, they arose early and got busy. Even in the face of such a terrible task. Read Genesis 22:7-8 and Hebrews 11:17-19 and describe Abraham’s mindset.



Received Back

What do you think would be your mindset?

Abraham followed through with the command of God. As he was about to slay his son, the Lord's angel stayed his hand and commended him for his obedience. As he had told Isaac, God provided the sacrifice and a ram was found nearby that was offered in the place of Isaac. Now God knew Abraham's faithfulness and Abraham knew his own faithfulness. His son was basically dead. Abraham's hand was coming down had God not stopped it. Isaac essentially was back from the dead. Abraham received him back. Not only did he receive him back, he received him back as a type. Now a nation could be born!

"He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type."
 ~ Hebrews 11:19

Jehovah's Only Begotten Son

We have gone to great lengths to completely understand the account of how Isaac came to be, what a great loss his sacrifice was, and how he was received back. All these facts foreshadowed the coming of the Messiah. Hebrews 11:19 simply tells us that Isaac was received back as a type. The clear meaning being that he was received back as a type of the Christ.

This type/antitype relationship is one of the sweetest in scripture. It demonstrates the great love that the Father has for His only begotten son, Jesus. Read the following passages and answer the questions on the lines below to investigate this great love.

Who sent Jesus and why? (John 3:16)

Did Jesus have any choice in the matter? (Philippians 2:5-8)



Received Back

What was Jesus' status before coming to this earth? (Philippians 2:5-6)

What does Matthew 27:45-54 seem to indicate about how the Father felt about Jesus' sacrifice?

What was different about how Jesus was received back versus Isaac?

While it was terrible for Abraham to have to sacrifice his innocent, only begotten son, how much more terrible it was for God to send His innocent, only begotten son to this earth to be mistreated and killed by the very people He had come to save. The Father could hardly stand to see this happen, but He did what was needed, as foreshadowed by Abraham all those years before. Just as Abraham received his son back from the dead so a people could be born, so was Jesus. He conquered death and rose from the dead for the purpose of purchasing a people. (Acts 20:28) As we look at passages like I Peter 3:21, we find that our salvation and being added to His people (Acts 2:47) is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus. If He had not been received back, then we would have no path to the Father. Jesus said so Himself at John 14:6. *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* There would be no church without Jesus just as there would have been no nation without Isaac.

Revelation 4-5 is such a sweet picture. We see the Father sitting on His throne in this scene of the throne room in Heaven. A scroll needs to be opened and no one can be found to open it. That is until chapter 5 when Jesus makes His appearance. He can open the scroll. He has ascended and returned to His place at the right hand of God. Even in Acts 7 we see Him standing at the right hand of God in concern for the first Christian martyr, Stephen. How beautiful to be received back to His father, as was Isaac!

Corresponding to *that...*

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IN PREPARATION

Read Hebrews 9.

What was in the outer area of the tabernacle according to verse 2?

What was behind the second veil?

How often did the priests work? Who and how often was the holy of holies entered?

What was the Holy Spirit signifying by the veil according to Hebrews 9:8-10?

Objects?

You may have noted the repeated use of the phrase “people, places, things, or events”. This has been used because typology not only applies to people and events surrounding people, but also inanimate objects and places. It is with some of these objects that we are concerned in this lesson.

The Tabernacle

As we found in our last lesson, three promises were made to Abraham. One of which was that God would make him into a great nation. Abraham’s descendants were in captivity in Egypt for 400 years. (Acts 7:6) They were enslaved and mistreated. God delivered the children of Israel from the foreign land and brought them through wilderness to the land that had also been promised to Abraham. There the nation would find a home. God was no longer dealing with a family, but a nation. As a result, the way He dealt with them had to change. No longer would he simply speak to the patriarchs. Now a national law and a religion would be established with the people.

After exiting Egypt, the people stopped at Sinai. Moses went to the top of the mountain and met with the Lord there. The Law was given and the nation was born. Now there was an order of worship, a religion, and national law for the people to follow. After the law was given and Moses had gone down to the foot of the mountain to deliver it to the people, he, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders ascended again. It was on this occasion that Moses was given the orders for the creation of the tabernacle. This moveable tent would be the place of worship for the Israelites for about 500 years! Yet, the Hebrew writer tells us that the tabernacle was a type also. It contained copies of the true things.



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Read Exodus 25-28 and answer the following questions.

Where did the materials for the tabernacle come from? On what basis was it collected?

Where did the construction specifications for the tabernacle come from?

How would you describe the directions for constructing the tabernacle?

In addition to the tabernacle and its contents, what was to be made for the priests?

What was done to the people and the items and why? (Exodus 24:6-8; 29:16-21)

There was certainly much for the children of Israel to do. They were given many things to construct and very precise instructions for doing so. As we think about this task, it is amazing to consider the time and effort involved. It would take great skill to be able to do such things. A reading of Exodus 31:6; 35:25-26, 25 demonstrates that the Lord gave the workers the skill to make the items that He had described and prescribed. There is a very good reason for this. Not only did it meet any deficiencies that may have existed amongst the knowledge of the people, it also made them able to skillfully carry out the task to God's exacting description. Why were these things to be made so precisely? Because they were earthly counterparts of Heavenly objects! These items were copies or types of an antitype to be revealed later.



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A Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle

As fine as the craftsmen and the directions for the construction of the tabernacle were, they could not compare with the truth and perfect tabernacle on high.

“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that it is to say, not of this creation.”

~ Hebrews 9:11

As we look at the various elements that were included in the tabernacle, we see that they have New Testament counterparts that are found in Heaven. Read the following passages and identify what is said about the true objects foreshadowed by the earthly copies.

The Lampstand (Matthew 5:15-16; Revelation 1:4, 12-13, 20)

The Table and Twelve Loaves of Consecrated Bread (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

The Golden Altar of Incense (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4)

The Ark and the Mercy Seat (Hebrews 4:16)

There are other items in the tabernacle that could be cited, but these suffice. It is clear that these were not just earthly object, but were a type of the true antitype. These foreshadowed God and His dealing with His people in the age of Jesus Christ. They were representations of the true Heavenly objects.



Mere Copies

The Blood Soaked Objects

As Hebrews 9 makes clear, all these objects were sanctified by the blood of bulls and goats. This was sufficient for the copies that were to be in place temporarily until Jesus could come and sanctify the true objects represented by these copies. It is hard to imagine today being a part of that crowd in the time of Moses. Blood being sprinkled about on everything including the people. It had to be a pretty nasty sight! Of course, that was the point. That system of worship, those objects, and the blood were all necessary because of sin. There was only power in their worship because blood was being shed and ultimately would be shed by Jesus Christ.

We certainly are blessed to live in the time that we do. We are not in a time where inadequate sacrifices are made looking to the future. We live in the time of the true sacrifice having been made. We are not in a time where earthly priests intercede using copies of the heavenly antitypes. We live in the time of the Great High Priest having shed His blood to make intercession for us. The time where we can go to God in prayer ourselves and take care of our sin as it happens. (Hebrews 4:12) We do not live in the time of continual offerings being made. Rather, we live in the time of the one true offering having been made that forever cleanses us from our sin.

Jesus entered into Heaven and cleansed the heavenly things with His blood. Only His blood could do it. The unblemished, spotless, innocent blood of the only begotten of the Father. Bulls and goats could never accomplish this. We are now His lampstand shining His light in the world. We now go to the Father in prayer and as incense our prayers ascend to the very throne of God. As the show bread demonstrated the people being of one mind in fellowship, we now partake of the one loaf, Jesus Christ. We now receive mercy from the Father directly as we go to Him making confession and our requests known.

The copies in the tabernacle were familiar to the children of Israel. No doubt when Christ revealed the substance of those things, they understood deeply the significance. No longer were priests working behind a veil. Now we were reconciled to God through the blood of His son and could go to Him. Thus the veil had been torn and mankind had access! (Matthew 27:51)



Royal Priesthood

IN PREPARATION

Why does Hebrews 5:1 say that priests were appointed?

Why does Hebrews 7:23 say there were so many priests?

Whose sins did the priest first take care of according to Hebrews 7:27-28?

What were the priests doing according to Hebrews 10:11?

Patriarchs

Under the patriarchs, sin was taken care of by family sacrifices. The father would offer sacrifice on behalf of his family. We see this very clearly when we look at Job. Job not only took this responsibility seriously, he would even offer sacrifices for his grown children in case they had done something and neglected to take care of it. (Job 1:5) At the end of the book, Job is essentially established as a priest who would offer sin not only on his behalf, but also on behalf of his three friends that had spoken wickedly during his trials.

When Noah exited the ark, he offered sacrifice of the clean animals on behalf of his family that had been brought safely through the water. These faithful men did what God had instructed them to do to be part of His holy and blameless number. (Ephesians 1:4)

Aaronic Priests

As mentioned in previous lessons, at Sinai a nation was established through national law and a system of worship for the people to follow. At the center of this system of worship were the Aaronic priests. No longer would patriarchs take care of the sacrifices, now the priests that had been selected by God would take care of such things. These men would intercede between God and man for the children of Israel.

According to Exodus 28:1, who were the first priests?

What did the high priest wear according to Exodus 28:4? Why?



Royal Priesthood

Who chose the Levites as priests and how? (Numbers 17)

The priests garments were commanded by God right down to what? (Exodus 28:42-43)

What were the priests responsibilities with regard to sacrifices according to Leviticus 1?

What were the priests responsibilities with regard to the show bread? (Exodus 25:30)

What were the priests responsibilities with regard to leprousy? (Leviticus 13)

Of course, one of the greatest charges given to the priests was to be the ones entrusted with the Law! Deuteronomy 31 records this for us. Verse 9 says that they carried the ark of the covenant which contained the Law. It was theirs to protect.

What were the priests to do every seven years according to Deuteronomy 31?

What effect was it supposed to have on those who heard?



Royal Priesthood

This enumerates a number of the responsibilities of the priests, but there were many others. Not only were they spiritual leaders, they were also judges in some circumstances among other things. The life of a priest would be a difficult one. The work he had been given to do was hard and his livelihood depended on the people doing as God had commanded them to do. Of course the sad thing about the priests is that as they worked so hard at diligently doing the things commanded by God, they were really only working with copies of heavenly objects and working with blood that was inadequate to truly take care of sin. There was going to come a time when this priesthood would cease to be and a new priesthood would take over. That time has come! Today priests are of an entirely different nature.

The Royal Priesthood

Peter writes the following at I Peter 2:9:

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

The priests of the Old Testament were a type of the New Testament priests. As Peter makes clear, Christians are priests! Saints are the antitype of those Old Testament priests. No longer must we go to a select group of men, we can approach God ourselves. We can avail ourselves of the blood of Jesus Christ and gain reconciliation with God and the right to approach the seat of mercy ourselves! (Hebrews 4:12) Sadly, the Old Testament priests could not always be trusted to do what was right. Read I Samuel 2:11-22 and record on the lines below how Hophni and Phinehas made worshipping God difficult.

Thankfully, we do not live in a time where we must depend on others doing right for us to be able to do what is right. We live in an age where we are priests and must be concerned only that we ourselves are doing what is right.



Royal Priesthood

As a royal priesthood, the New Testament defines our responsibilities in much the same way the responsibilities of the Aaronic priests were defined. The difference being that our priesthood, the antitype, is the true substance. We are what was being pointed to by the priesthood of the Old Testament. Answer the following questions concerning our responsibilities as priests.

What do royal priests wear? (Galatians 3:27; I Timothy 2:9)

How are royal priests chosen? (Ephesians 1:4, 13-14)

What are the sacrificial responsibilities of royal priests? (Hebrews 13:15-16; I Peter 2:5)

What are the memorial bread responsibilities of royal priests? (I Corinthians 10:17; 11:26)

What are the responsibilities of royal priests with regard to God's word? (I Timothy 3:15; I Corinthians 15:2)

We have many responsibilities as were foreshadowed by the Aaronic priesthood type. While their responsibilities were physically demanding and amounted to much temporal work, our responsibilities are primarily spiritual in nature. Just as Nadab and Abihu were made an example of to the priests of their day that they must take their position seriously, we must likewise learn this lesson and see the great importance of our position!



A New Order

IN PREPARATION

What nation did Melchizedek serve as king? (Genesis 14:18)

What peculiar thing is said of him at Hebrews 7:3?

What do you think this statement could mean?

What other role did Melchizedek hold according to Genesis 14:18?

A Most Peculiar Individual

Genesis 14 records Abraham going out to rescue Lot. He had been taken captive when the king of Babylon and some other kings made war with Sodom and Gomorrah. They ended up conquering the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and took all the people captive. When word of this gets to Abraham, he goes out to free the people and save Lot and his family.

Abraham's force was interesting. It was not a standing army. It was a group of 381 trained men that were born in his house! (Genesis 14:14) Indeed God had greatly blessed the household of Abraham. Not only did he and his family of trained men go out against these kings, they won! The king of Sodom goes out to meet the victorious Abraham at verse 17 and to try and pay him. However, Abraham wisely declines this offer. He would be who he was because God put him there, not because he had attained wealth from a wicked king of a wicked kingdom.

It is in the midst of this account that we encounter a most peculiar individual, Melchizedek. We are introduced to him at Genesis 14:18-20. If it were not for the New Testament explaining the type/antitype relationship Melchizedek had, we probably would hardly notice this little blip in our Old Testament. Yet, this little blip is key to understanding the new priesthood!

Melchizedek was different than the Aaronic priests would be in a couple of ways. The first way is explained here in Genesis 14. He was not only a priest, but was also a king! This is something that was impossible for the Aaronic priests. Priests came from Levi and kings would come from Judah. Thus an Aaronic priest could never hold both offices rightfully.



A New Order

In our text Melchizedek comes out to meet Abraham. He blesses Abraham whom he calls the “possessor of heaven and earth” and then he blesses Jehovah who delivered Abraham.

What do you think he meant by the “possessor of heaven and earth”?

Then Abraham did something very interesting, he paid a tithe of his spoil to Melchizedek. What do you think this tithe indicates about the relationship of Melchizedek to Abraham?

The second way that he was different from Aaronic priests is found in Hebrews 7:3. This text says that he was without father and mother! Much has been said about what this could possibly mean. However, it would seem that the next phrase makes it clear. He was “without genealogy”. The point being that unlike Aaronic priests, he had no lineage to trace. It did not matter who his father and mother were. His lineage was immaterial to the fact that God had chosen him to be king and priest. The Aaronic priests had to be from Levi and be able to prove it.

Royal Priesthood?

In our last lesson we considered how the Aaronic priests have been replaced by a royal priesthood. A priesthood where members are determined by the new birth. However, what is meant by “royal”? It would seem that this phrase would be a contradiction. The Aaronic priests could not be royal. Royalty came through the tribe of Judah. There is no doubt that modern priests are royalty. Consider a couple passages from Revelation as translated in the New King James.

He “*has made us kings and priests to His God and Father*” (Revelation 1:6) Jesus “*made us kings and priests to our God*”. (Revelation 5:10)

The New American Standard says that he has made us a kingdom and priests. In either case



A New Order

we see that we have been given a place in the kingdom and as priests. We are part of a new order of priests. A royal order!

The High Priest

We have seen clearly up to this point that there was a change in the order of priests. The most important thing to note is that there was also a change in the high priest. Under the Aaronic order the high priest had special duties. Aaron was the first of these high priests. Read the passages below and record on the lines the responsibilities of the high priest.

What special place did the high priest enter and why according to Hebrews 9:7?

What does Hebrews 8:3 say the high priest was to do?

What were the problems with Aaronic high priests according to Hebrews 7:27-28?

Whose blood did the high priest offer according to Hebrews 9:25?

As we put all this together we see a problem. The Aaronic high priest was insufficient. He was merely a type of the Great High Priest to come. The Aaronic high priest was not sufficient as a priest and was officiating at an altar that was insufficient because it was using blood that was insufficient. (Hebrews 10:4) Those that call for the restoration of Old Testament sacrifice are calling for a return to something inadequate and obsolete!



A New Order

The Great High Priest

Hebrews 3:1 tells us that we should consider “*Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.*” We have been given a Great High Priest. We have been given a High Priest who could truly offer atonement. He is the antitype to which the Aaronic high priests were pointing. Psalm 110:4 points out that Jesus would be “*a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*”. Since the Aaronic high priests were insufficient, we needed a better High Priest who was from a different order. (Hebrews 7:11) Jesus being after the order of Melchizedek is explained in the two ways that he was peculiar.

Firstly, Jesus is both king and priest. This would have been an impossibility under the Law of Moses. However, under the law of Jesus Christ it is possible. Hebrews 7:14 points out that Jesus could not be a priest since He was not from the tribe of Levi. Yet, He is king and priest. This is possible because He is not an Aaronic priest but a priest after Melchizedek. We needed a high priest who could be both. A priest to intercede perfectly for us and a King to rule the new nation.

Secondly, He is without genealogy. Melchizedek had no lineage to be traced. He was a priest and king because he had been appointed as such by God. Jesus is of the same nature. He could not be a priest being from Judah and could not be a prosperous king since He was of the line of Jeconiah. (Jeremiah 22) However, His lineage is of no consequence as He has been selected by the Father according to Melchizedek’s order to rule over the change in law and priesthood.

The high priests of the Old Testament were placeholders. Jesus, the true High Priest accomplished what they could not. He entered not the holy of holies that contained the physical copies but rather the true holy place in Heaven. He cleansed the true tabernacle, not with the blood of animals, but with His own precious blood. Best of all, He did it once for all! (Hebrews 9:25) There was no need for Him to go in yearly as the high priests of old. They had to do it with that frequency because their order and service was insufficient. The blood of Jesus was able to accomplish in one shot what all those sacrifices could not. How blessed we are to live in the age of the Great High Priest who ever lives to intercede for us! (Hebrews 7:25)



Swallowed Up

IN PREPARATION

Read Jonah 1-4.

Who was Jonah?

What did God command Jonah to do?

What can you find in your concordance and dictionaries about Ninevah?

Do you think that Jonah learned the lesson God was trying to teach him?

Jonah

The account of Jonah as recorded in the book of Jonah is truly one of the most interesting accounts in our entire Old Testament. Here we have a prophet who was given an inspired message and commanded by God to go deliver it. Unlike Moses of old, he did not argue with God, he just decided not to go! The account shows us the creative way that God dealt with his disobedience and the lesson that He tried to teach him about hate.

Answer the following questions about the account of Jonah on the lines provided.

Where did Jonah try to flee from the presence of God?

What does Jonah 1:5 seem to indicate about Jonah?

How did the sailors determine that Jonah was the cause of their trouble?

What did the sailors do after throwing Jonah overboard?

What does Jonah do as he is drowning?



Swallowed Up

How long did Jonah spend in the belly of the fish? _____

What did Jonah get that many who were disobedient did not? _____

What was the result when he preached the inspired message in Ninevah?

What did God do in response? _____

What was Jonah's reaction to it all? _____

Why does Jonah say he fled according to Jonah 4:2?

What does God do to teach Jonah a lesson?

What was the lesson?

God demonstrates His patience with Jonah. Even after He is forgiven and given a second chance, he turns around and acts wickedly again. We are not given the rest of the story, but I am hopeful that Jonah learned his lesson and turned over a new leaf. While we often speak of Peter's words that God is patient not willing for any man to perish in application to New Testament saints, Jonah shows us that this was true of those in Old Testament times, even Gentiles. He wants all to be saved. On this occasion, the Ninevites were spared.



Swallowed Up

Location, Location, Location

This type/antitype relationship is one of location. Matthew 12:39-40 explains this.

“He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Jesus tells the Jews that they would receive no sign but that of Jonah. The belly of the fish is used as a type for the grave that would contain Jesus for a three day period. Jesus told the Jews this in a couple of different ways. One of which was His statement at John 2:19.

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

It was this statement that would ultimately give the Jews occasion against Him. At Matthew 26:61 one of His accusers accused Him of saying He was going to destroy the actual temple. Matthew 27:40 records those passing by hurling this accusation at Him abusively. Of course, this was a complete misunderstanding at best. Jesus was not speaking with reference to the literal temple, He was talking about His body. If they kill Him, He will rise in three days.

His resurrection would be a sign of many things. It would be a sign that He was who He claimed to be. It would be a sign that the resurrection that He promised to others could be accomplished by Him. Sadly, the majority ignored the sign and even went out of their way to cover it up. Jesus told them that this was what they were going to do. He told them at Matthew 12:41 that the men of Nineveh would rise up against them at the judgment because when the message was preached, they repented. Yet, something greater than Jonah was there in their time, Jesus, and they remained hard-hearted and dull of hearing. How sad that a Gentile nation repented after a simple message was preached and the actual people of God would ignore not only the gospel message, but also the amazing signs that the Lord and His disciples were working to confirm that message.



Swallowed Up

What was Jesus doing while swallowed up in the earth?

Going back to 1 Peter 3 where we started, the passage says that Jesus was making proclamation to the disobedient during the days of Noah. Many misunderstand this to mean that He was giving them a second chance. This would seem to be a result of older translations using the word “preached” rather than “made proclamation”. The point of the text seems to be that Jesus went to the grave as Acts 2 describes and His being there was a proclamation against those spirits. He was demonstrating to them God waited patiently for them during their day and provided a way of salvation. Now Jesus would be that way of salvation to all who would do differently than they did.

It would also seem reasonable to assume that Jesus is being ministered to and comforted. Luke 16 tells us that Lazarus was comforted in the bosom of Abraham while in the grave. Jesus would have been in the bosom of Abraham also and the continued patience of God as demonstrated through Him would be clearly seen by the pre-flood wicked that were across the gulf in torment. It is important to note this. Some older translations say at Acts 2 that Jesus was in Hell, when what should be rendered is that He was in Hades. That is, the paradise side as demonstrated in Luke 16.

Sadly, if we go further and read the book of Nahum, we find that the repentance of the Ninevites was short-lived. That letter deals with the judgment God was bringing on Nineveh because they had gone back to their wicked ways! While the generation of Ninevites contemporary with Jonah would stand against the wicked generation of first century Jews, the later generations of Ninevites would be on the side of condemnation.

Of course, there is one glaring difference between Jonah and Jesus. Jonah was vomited up by the will of the Father. Jesus was swallowed up by the grave, but He overcame it! Jesus conquered death, was raised from the dead, and He will raise us too! It is at that point we can join in with Paul’s words at 1 Corinthians 15:54.

“When this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory”. May we all put off sin so we can witness death swallowed up personally!



All Things New

IN PREPARATION

Read Revelation 21.

What passed away?

What did John see coming out of Heaven?

What is among men according to Revelation 21:3? Is the tabernacle among men now?

What does the loud voice from the throne say is being made new at verse 5?

Israel

God promised Abraham at Genesis 12 that He would make him into a great nation. The people were numbered so greatly while in Egypt that the Egyptians became afraid of them and began killing their children. After the Exodus, the Lord turned them into a nation at Sinai. They were given all that they would need to be a mighty nation. If they had only had faith, they would have avoided the wilderness wanderings and received their land much sooner. Instead, God had them wander until an entire generation died. The scripture spells out what made them a nation. Let's investigate.

People

One of the promises made to Abraham was that his descendants would be numbered like the sand on the seashore. (Genesis 22:17) This must have been very hard for the seventy-five year old man with a barren wife to grasp. Yet, when they leave Egypt this is the case. By some estimates there may have been as many as three million people that left Egypt! Whatever the number, we know one thing for sure, it was large. There could certainly be no Israel without a people. It takes many people to make a nation, and God had blessed Abraham with many descendants.

How were these citizens of this nation identified? They were identified in two ways. They were of the lineage of Abraham through Isaac and they were circumcised. Genesis 17:10 records God giving circumcision to Abraham as the mark of the covenant that was made between them. Write the rules of circumcision on the line below as recorded in Genesis 17.



All Things New

Law

Moses was given the law when he was atop mount Sinai. This was not only a spiritual law, but it established order for the nation. It gave them the code that the people were to live by in regard to one another. It also spelled out various offenses and the penalties that would be incurred if they happened.

Describe marriage law under the Law. (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

What does the law prescribe for murder verses accidental killing? (Exodus 21:12-16)

What happened in the case of injury to the unborn? (Exodus 21:22-25)

What if your animal got out of control and harmed someone? (Exodus 21:28-32)

Land

One thing that a nation must have is land. This is actually the last piece of the nation that would be received. It was not due to God's wishes, rather the hard hearts of the people. The path to Canaan was actually pretty short from Sinai, but their lack of faith caused them to wander for forty years before they would be allowed to take the land that had been promised to Abraham all those years before.

At Joshua 21:45 we read that all the promises God made to Abraham had come to pass. They were made a nation and had received the land that had been promised. The people would be able to keep the land as long as they upheld their end of the covenant.



All Things New

King

We often read passages like Judges 17:6 that say *“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes”* and we think that Israel had no king. However, that is not what is meant by the passage. The passage is simply saying that there was no earthly king to govern the people so each person decided individually what they would do. The fact remains that Israel did have a king.

What does the Lord say at I Samuel 8:7?

They had a king. They had the greatest king possible. Jehovah! Sadly the majority had chosen wickedness for many years. God had patiently tried to steer them back to what was right through various captivities and deliverers, but at the end of the day they still chose to go the way of the world and appoint a physical king over them, usurping the role of Jehovah! God had established a nation just as He wanted it to be. They could have prospered in that organization, but instead they chose the path of wickedness.

I Make All Things New

Revelation 21 speaks of the New Jerusalem, that is, spiritual Israel. God had promised Israel that they could remain in the land as long as they followed the law. (Deuteronomy 28) Unfortunately, they departed from that covenant and God removed them as that chosen nation. However, God did not forget them. He kept a remnant for Himself and it was from that remnant that the Messiah came and established spiritual Israel! Israel was a type of the spiritual nation that was to come. Though many even today would try to assert that Jesus came to establish a physical kingdom and will one day come back and complete that task, Jesus Himself testifies that His nation, the New Jerusalem, is spiritual, not physical. Note His words to Pilate at John 18:36.

“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”



All Things New

Read Hebrews 12:18-29 and answer the following questions.

What mountain do we approach? _____

It is also described as a city and kingdom. How is it different from the nation that was established at Mount Sinai?

We have been given a new nation, a spiritual one. It also is made up of the same elements as the physical type, but the elements are spiritual.

What are the people and how are they identified? (Galatians 3:27-29)

What is the law that we are under? (1 Corinthians 9:21; Hebrews 8:10)

Where is the land of spiritual Israel? (Hebrews 11:10; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:11)

As indicated earlier, Jesus is our king! He established a spiritual kingdom that is not of this world. He is in Heaven reigning at the right hand of God far above all things of this earth and the powers of wickedness. (Ephesians 1:20-21) Abraham, while looking forward to the physical promises made to him, was also looking for a city with foundations whose architect and builder was God. (Hebrews 11) He was looking forward in faith to the establishment of a greater nation. He was looking forward to his seed blessing all nations. He was looking forward to Christ and His kingdom. We enjoy the great blessing today of being a part of the city with foundations, the antitype, spiritual Israel!



Our Passover

IN PREPARATION

Read Exodus 12.

When was passover to be observed according to Leviticus 23:5?

What was the rule for unclean persons according to Numbers 9?

What does Numbers 9 say would happen to someone who could observe it, but did not?

What does Deuteronomy 16 say is the name of the first month?

In a Hurry!

The Passover was established in Exodus 12. The children of Israel are preparing to leave Egypt. Pharaoh has not said that they can go, but God knows that after the tenth plague he will be ready for them to leave. The tenth plague will be the death of the firstborn in every Egyptian household. Pharaoh has seen the power of God. There has been abundant proof that He is not a god, but rather The God! Yet, Pharaoh foolishly risks the life of his eldest son to make a point. It is a risk that he will lose. After the events of chapter 12 his son is dead and he and his nation are broken. The plagues have decimated the nation of Egypt and now even his heir is dead. It is in this setting that the Passover occurs and time begins for the nation of Israel.

Answer the following questions taken from Exodus 12 on the lines provided.

What began for the Israelites according to Exodus 12:2?

How many days are they given to prepare according to verse 3?

What was to be done with the lamb?

How were they to be dressed and why?



Our Passover

Why was the blood put on the doorposts?

For what purpose did God establish this as a perpetual ordinance?

Who was not allowed to eat of the Passover feast?

On the night of the original Passover the angel of the Lord saw the mark of blood on the doorposts and passed over the homes of the Israelites. The disobedient Egyptians were visited by this angel of death and the firstborn of each home was slain. Even the man in the dungeon lost his firstborn!

This account truly underscores the arrogance of men and the way power destroys. Pharaoh had every opportunity to set aside his pride and do as the Lord of Hosts had commanded. Pharaoh's position was given to him by Jehovah and it would be taken away by Him also. Yet pride caused Pharaoh to not only destroy himself, but his entire nation.

We also see from this account the protection that God provides to His people. He does not forget us. He sees us and renders aid. The children of Israel had begun to be oppressed by Pharaoh and the Lord saw it and delivered them. They were children of promise as descendants of Abraham and God had not forgotten them. When He saw the blood, a mark of their faithful obedience, He passed over them, protected them, and delivered them. Indeed God cares for His people.

The Passover was given as a perpetual ordinance to the Israelites. The text says that it was as a reminder to future generations of God's deliverance. We are a future generation and we have a Passover also. The Passover of the Exodus was a type of our Passover.



Our Passover

Christ, Our Passover

*“Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For **Christ our Passover** also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

~ I Corinthians 5:7-8

As previously mentioned, Paul is addressing some of the many problems that the church at Corinth was facing. In chapter 5 he is dealing with a particularly insidious problem. Read verses 1-5 and answer the following questions.

The man was guilty of what sin?

The church was guilty of what sin?

What had Paul already done and what do you think this means?

This brings us to our antitype, Christ the Passover lamb. Paul tells the brethren that their boasting is not good. They not only had refused to deal with the issue, they were apparently proud that they were coexisting with this sinful person. The problem is that if that sin was allowed to remain amongst them, it would leaven them all. It would spread. They would all incur guilt.

We saw previously in Exodus 12 that all the bread had to be unleavened. They were not allowed to even have leaven in their homes. This is used as an illustration in I Corinthians 5. They needed to get rid of the old leaven so that they could be a new lump. Unleavened by sin. This was because Jesus was their Passover lamb and He had already been sacrificed. The point here being that the blood of Jesus cleanses them and marks them as God's people. It marks them as obedient people of faith. It marks them as people that would be saved rather than slain by the destroyer.



Our Passover

The train of thought here is similar to what is found in Romans 6. Paul explains that they cannot continue in sin because they have contacted Jesus' blood through baptism and are new people. That is basically what Paul is pointing out to the Corinthians in this text. They have received the blood of Jesus and put it on their doorposts. How can they then continue in sin by leaving the old wicked leaven in their lump. That is, how could they tolerate sin. As Romans 6:12 says, they should not let sin reign in their mortal bodies and obey its lust since they have partaken of the blood of Jesus Christ. They needed to repent.

Notice the figure of leaven. Verse 8 says that they should be leavened with the new leaven of sincerity and truth rather than the old leaven of malice and wickedness. It just did not make sense to have Jesus as their passover, to have received the blood, and then continue with wickedly leavened bread!

Our Lamb Too

We have the same lamb and the same blood. As we have already seen in the book of Hebrews, Jesus' blood took care of sin once for all. Though that blood was shed two-thousand years ago, it is still actively working for us. We have the blood of Jesus upon our doorposts that the destroyer will pass over us.

Just as was the case with the Corinthians and the Israelites, we must get rid of the old leaven. What is the point of only doing half the passover. If the Israelites partook of the lamb, but did not dress as commanded and make the bread as commanded, they would have been no better off. The same is true of the Corinthians. They were no better off for having partaken of the blood of Jesus if they were going to just continue and tolerate sin. It likewise makes no sense for us to be baptized into Jesus Christ and then continue with the old wicked leaven that we have always had. We need to clear out that old leaven and be a new lump. Leavened with sincerity and truth. Leaven permeates the whole lump. Our entire service to Jesus should be marked by the fact that we are governed by His word and are sincerely devoted to Him and doing as He said. Spirit and truth.

Thank God that the destroyer sees the blood of Jesus and passes over. May we always continue in His word in sincerity and truth that we can one day go home to Him!



Lifted Up

IN PREPARATION

Read Numbers 21.

What are the Israelites doing in the beginning of the chapter?

What causes the people to become impatient and complain?

What punishment does God bring on the people because of their grumbling?

What does II Kings 18:4 say happened to the bronze serpent?

Grumblers

The children of Israel had an incessant problem. They were grumblers. They griped at Moses. They griped at Aaron. Worst of all, they griped at God. Nothing that was done for them was ever enough. They always wanted more. Then when something else was done, it was not how they wanted it done or it was just simply not the solution they wanted. They would pay dearly for their grumbling as recorded at Numbers 21.

Numbers 21 is peculiar to read, but classic Israelite as far as the different accounts of the people are concerned. It is on one hand hard to conceive how they could be doing so good acting in faith at the beginning of the chapter, then complaining so wickedly at the next battle. However, this tends to be the way things went for the Israelites. They would do well for a time, then crash and burn.

Their conviction at the beginning is impressive. They are coming up against the Canaanite king of Arad and he took some of their people captive. As a faithful follower of Jehovah should do, they went to God in prayer and vowed that if He would deliver the Canaanites into their hands, they would go through and destroy them as God wanted. The Lord blessed them and granted their request.

However, as they go to their next location, the journey became too long for them and they broke into the same old song they liked to sing. *“Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food.”* God was providing their needs, but it was not enough. They wanted to travel their way in their timeframe. They wanted God to provide food the way they wanted it. They



Lifted Up

were never content with the great things that God was doing. On this occasion the Lord had enough and punished them.

God sent fiery serpents among them. While this may conjure ideas of snakes running around on fire, it is likely simply a reference to them being bronze in color and venomous. Many people died on that day the scripture declares.

What was the reaction of the people to the outbreak of the fiery serpents?

What did Moses do? _____

What did God tell Moses to do? _____

What did the people have to do to be healed when bitten?

Why did this work? Was the statue magical?

Sadly, even this bronze statue that God had Moses make to save the people would be later abused. We find good King Hezekiah at II Kings 4 going through the land destroying all the items of pagan worship that had been erected by the children of Israel to worship other than Jehovah. What was one of the things he had to destroy? The bronze serpent. The people had kept it for about 700 years and had begun to worship it. They named it Nehushtan which basically means bronze serpent. What they once looked to for salvation had become a stumbling block to them and a cause for losing their lives. However, this bronze serpent was a type of something else that would be lifted up!



Corresponding to *that...* Lifted Up

Jesus Lifted Up

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”
~ John 3:14

Jesus is the antitype of the bronze serpent! While that serpent may have become something wicked to the people, it was a type of something great! The serpent was lifted up on the standard in the wilderness and everyone that was bitten by a deadly snake would live if they looked on the serpent in faith. Jesus explains at John 3 that He will be the same way.

People are bitten by sin, so to speak. As Paul says at Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is death. Thus, all are destined to lose their soul. However, if we look to Jesus Christ in faith, we can have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It should also be noted that this is according to the plan of God. The serpent was not the idea of Moses, but the command of God after Moses went to Him to intercede on behalf of the Israelites. In like manner John 3:16 tells us that Jesus coming to this earth to be lifted up was the plan of the Father so that intercession could be made for sin.

In both situations belief and obedience is key. The Israelites had to believe that this unorthodox manner of healing a snake bite would work and they had to look upon the image. It is the same with Jesus as He outlines in His words. We must believe in Him. That is, we must believe that the death of Jesus on the cross and His subsequent resurrection and ascension, is the solution and must be willing to do as He has asked to receive the healing.

This was not the only purpose of Him being lifted up.

What does John 8:28 say would happen when Jesus was lifted up?



Lifted Up

Can you find an example in the crucifixion account that proves His words at John 8:28 to be true?

Jesus also uses the lifted up illustration at John 12:32-33. What does He say would happen if He is lifted up?

The act of crucifying Jesus was going to do the exact opposite of what Satan hoped would happen. Revelation 12 pictures Satan as a dragon making war with Jesus, the remnant, and ultimately the Christians. He thinks he is winning. He believes that the blow is a death blow. However, as was prophesied in the garden, it is merely a wound to the heal of Jesus. His plan is not thwarted, the kingdom is established. The crucifixion was a blow to the head of Satan. It did not scatter the disciples. Instead it solidified them around the cause and drew all men to Him. Here we are two-thousand years later and we are still drawn to the Savior because He was lifted up, died, was buried and then raised from the dead.

Looking to Jesus

It is important at this point to mention how it is possible to look to Jesus today. It was very simple in the wilderness. They just literally looked over at the image that Moses erected. However, with Jesus it is different. We cannot literally see Him in the distance. No, looking to Him is different. Luke's records of Paul's words at Acts 22:16 seem to best describe how we call on the Saving blood of Jesus.

"Why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

We need to call on His name as believers through baptism. This is how our sins are washed away. This is how the penalty of sin is removed. This is how death from the venom of sin is avoided. May we always look to Jesus and not be destroyed by the venom of the serpent of old, Satan!



Corresponding to *that...*

Modern Manna

IN PREPARATION

Read Exodus 16.

Why did God send manna from heaven to the people?

What was their complaint on this occasion?

How did God test the people with the manna that He sent from Heaven?

Did they pass the test that the Lord gave to them?

Cliché

The account of manna coming down from Heaven is so universally known that the phrase has become cliché. People say that they received something and it was like “manna from heaven”. It has come to a point where I am convinced that the expression is being used without a real understanding of what it means.

We get to Exodus 16 and begin this lesson like the last. The people are grumbling. This time they are unhappy because they do not feel like they are being provided with enough. They break out the same old tired song. The title would be, “We Were Better Off In Egypt”. God promises them bread raining down from Heaven. That bread is the manna as we refer to it.

Answer the following questions regarding the manna from Exodus 16.

Who were the Israelites actually grumbling against?

What were the rules for gathering the manna?

What other food was given to the people? _____

What did the manna look and taste like?



Modern Manna

Why were they not to gather on the seventh day?

What was done with one omer of the manna? _____

How long did the Israelites eat the manna? _____

Did they have to do anything to prepare the manna? _____

Why does Deuteronomy 8:3 say the people were allowed to go hungry for a time?

When did the manna cease to fall according to Joshua 5?

The account of the manna and pigeons is a beautiful picture of the love and care God has for His people. At Matthew 6 Jesus explains to those listening to His sermon presented on the mount that they should not be concerned with where they will get their necessities. God has promised to provide food and clothing to those that seek Him and His kingdom first. The Israelites in the wilderness demonstrate this for us. God took care of them. This huge crowd of people who could not have survived without supplies being delivered. God delivered them supplies to sustain them from Heaven.

We certainly learn a lesson about being gracious from this text. God rained food from heaven to care for His people and they grew sick of this kindness and began to complain about what they were given. God has promised us our needs. It may not be the fanciest thing we can imagine, but God will see to it that we are clothed and that we do not starve. Hopefully we see this and would understand if things grew tough that God would provide the basics.



Modern Manna

The True Bread

*“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who give you the **true bread** out of heaven. **I am the bread of life**. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.”* ~ John 6:32, 48-50

The manna that fell from heaven in the wilderness was a type of Jesus. Not only Jesus, but the word for which He stands. Psalm 78:23-25 gives a beautiful description of the manna.

“Yet He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; He rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them food from heaven. Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance.”

While the description of the manna as the food of angels is a beautiful thing to consider, that manna pales in comparison to the true manna from Heaven. Jesus Christ and His word.

Answer the following questions from John 6 on the lines provided.

Why were the crowds seeking Jesus according to John 6:26?

What does Jesus say they should instead be concerned about?

What does Jesus tell them is the work that they should do to work the works of God?

When they ask for a sign, what sign does Jesus say has been given?



Modern Manna

Jesus makes clear that the manna was an amazing sign that was worked by God, but those that ate of the manna died. However, those that partake of His flesh, the true manna will live. At verse 51 Jesus says that He is the living bread from Heaven. Anyone that eats His flesh and drinks His blood will have eternal life. This cryptic statement is hard for the Jews to swallow that are listening to Him speak. They cannot conceive of how this is possible. There is no doubt that there is some allusion here to what would be the Lord's Supper. However, it would seem that He is primarily referring to His word.

We need to remember John 1. John 1 tells us that Jesus is the _____? The two cannot be separated. If we look at His statement at John 6:35 it should strike us as familiar. It is very similar to the words He spoke to the woman at the well in John 4. He told her that He had water she did not know about that if she partook of it, she would never thirst again. He is talking about living water. He is talking not only about Himself, but the word.

Jesus and His word have always been there. The two were there in the wilderness according to 1 Corinthians 10. Verses 3-4 tells us that they ate the same spiritual food and they drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a rock and that rock was Jesus Christ. While Paul primarily references the manna and the water from the rock, notice the word "spiritual". He is not just talking about food and drink. He is saying that they had the same word available to all of them. Jesus was guiding them through the Law. They all had the same chance of getting to the promised land by following the word!

I would love to see manna from Heaven. I think it would be amazing to see it lying there on the ground and then going about gathering it and preparing it. However, the reality is that we do have manna today. A superior manna. The true bread from Heaven, Jesus Christ. If we eat of Jesus and His word, then we will never die, unlike those in the wilderness. We have a weekly reminder of our manna in the Lord's Supper. We take that memorial feast to remind us of Him and what He has done. We proclaim His death until He returns. We think upon our manna from Heaven and how it sustains us. We should gather the word and let it sustain as they did in the wilderness, as though their life depended on it. Because their life did depend on it, as does ours!



Laid Low

IN PREPARATION

Read Exodus 14.

What caused Pharaoh to let the people leave Egypt?

After the people left, what happened with Pharaoh?

What did Pharaoh command his army to do? How did Israel react?

What did God tell Moses to do when they were pinned at the Red Sea?

The Red Sea

It must have been a terrifying scene. The children of Israel have joyously escaped from the Egyptians. The pass through until they come to the Red Sea, only to discover that the Egyptians are coming after them. There is nowhere for them to go and even if there were, they huge crowd could not go there fast enough. They were stuck. As would be their method of operation, they begin to grumble against God. How could He bring them out there just to die in this manner. Apparently all the mighty works God did to get them out of Egypt had passed from their memory. However, Moses calms the people with his steadfast trust in the Almighty.

What does he tell the people at Exodus 14:13?

What is he sure of according to verse 14?

The people will not have to lift a finger. God will protect them. Moses cries out to God, but He simply tells Moses to be quiet and just go forward! God moved the protective angel and the cloud between the children of Israel and the Egyptians and the sea was parted. The Israelites were able to pass through the two walls of water on dry land. It was a process that would have taken some time. Getting more than a million people across the sea would not happen quickly. It was no concern of theirs, God would see to it that the people were not harmed as they made their miraculous escape to the other side of safety. As the Egyptians tried to follow, the sea closed in and many of



Laid Low

drowned in the sea. Though the people grumbled and tested God in fear, He spared them and destroyed the wicked Egyptians once and for all. Never again would the Egyptians be a dominant world power again. The nation was destroyed.

Moses Had A Baptism?

Turning over to I Corinthians 10 reveals an interesting statement at verse 2.

*“I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea.”*

We are familiar with John’s baptism and we are familiar with Jesus’ baptism, but Moses’ baptism? Absolutely. What we find in this text is an allegory that presents the passing through the cloud and sea as a type of baptism. Paul uses the type of passing through the red sea as an illustration for why people today are laid low in the wilderness though they have all the same blessings and opportunities as others.

As you read I Corinthians 10, answer the questions below on the blanks provided.

List the four blessings and opportunities that are mentioned in the chapter.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What was the spiritual rock from which they drank?



Corresponding to *that...* Laid Low

Was God pleased with most of them? _____

This can be hard to grasp. How can people who have all the same blessings, all the same opportunities, not end up at the same place? These people lost their lives in the wilderness even though they had availed themselves of the initial blessings offered and followed Moses.

On the blanks provided, list the four reasons why they were laid low in the wilderness. Where possible, also identify what occasion is being referenced in the Old Testament.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

What does Paul say is the purpose of these things happening to them?

Essentially Paul is explaining that we are in the same boat. The situations that arose as they wandered in the wilderness are a type of the Christians walk in the wilderness of this world. Let's make the connections.

What is our baptism? _____

What is our food and drink? _____

What is our hope? _____



Laid Low

Since we have the same blessings, will God be pleased with most? _____

Many, though they start to follow Christ, will be laid low in the wilderness. Of course, Satan is not working any differently today than he was then. Paul makes specific application to modern Christians by commanding things like, “*Do not be idolaters.*”

On the lines provided below, list the four reasons that Christians will fall short of the promised land and give a modern day example of each.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Did God provide them a way out of the temptation to sin? _____

What about us? Are we promised a way out? _____

What does it take to find that way out that has been promised?

The reality is that there will be many Christians that will be lost on the last day. Paul is speaking to baptized believers here, not people in the world. People may deny it all they want, but the clear, strong point of this type/antitype relationship is that we can be lost after becoming a Christian. The encouragement is that Satan is not up to anything new and that God knows his schemes and provides us a way out with every temptation. May we ever be prayerful and sober as we look for that way out and avoid sin that can so easily entangle us and carry us away to destruction!



Corresponding
to *that...*

Sabbath Remains

IN PREPARATION

Read Exodus 20.

What is the occasion in Exodus 16 when the Sabbath is first established?

What explanation for Sabbath observance does Exodus 20 give?

What does Exodus 31 say would happen to someone profaning it?

What does Exodus 35 specify you could not do on the Sabbath?

The Fourth Commandment

Observance of the Sabbath as a day of rest was a key provision of the Old Law and the Ten Commandments. The Sabbath law was put into place at the time that the manna was given. It was not quite in its complete structured form that it would be once given on Sinai, but it was basically there and in place. God sent the manna from Heaven and they could gather it for six days. Anything extra would turn foul and have to be thrown out. They could only gather enough for one day, with one exception. On the sixth day they were to gather enough for two days because on the Sabbath they were to rest and God would not be sending manna on that day. Some of the Israelites actually tested this and were disappointed to find that there was no manna waiting for them. Moses was disappointed at their hardness of heart. (Exodus 16:27-30)

At Exodus 20 we have record of the giving of the ten commandments.

Write out the fourth commandment on the blank provided.

The breaking of the Sabbath was a very serious offense that was punishable by death. It became a central part of the Jewish system because it was easy to tell if someone was breaking the Sabbath generally.

What does Leviticus 23:32 say one should do to their soul on the Sabbath and what do you think this means?



Sabbath Remains

What did the land get every seventh year and what did this entail according to Leviticus 25:4?

What happened every forty-nine years according to Leviticus 25?

The Sabbaths were kept fairly well by the Israelites for a long period of time. However, what happened as time went by according to Ezekiel 20:21-24?

Sabbath Keeping During the Life of Christ

If we fast-forward to the time of Jesus, we see that the people had gone from profaning the sabbath to adding a whole lot of Sabbath law and trying to bind it on others. Many of the accusations that were made against Jesus had to do with Him supposedly breaking the Sabbath or condoning His apostles doing so. However, Jesus did not break the Sabbath, He merely ignored some of the traditions that the Jews had developed and then tried to bind on the people.

Answer the following questions from Matthew 12.

What were the disciples doing that supposedly broke the Sabbath? Were they really?

What situation did the Jews create on the Sabbath to try and accuse Jesus?

With what title did Jesus reference Himself in Matthew 12? _____



Sabbath Remains

What two examples of Sabbath breaking does Jesus use? What is His point?

1. _____
2. _____

The Jews had gone from perverting the Sabbath by profaning it to the other extreme of adding a bunch of tradition to it to the detriment of the men that it was supposed to serve. Jesus masterfully dealt with their accusations and traditions in Matthew 12. He demonstrated that He was of such power that He could heal without so much as lifting a finger. He was able to help a person in need and quiet their foolishness all at one time!

In The Beginning

The reason that the Lord gives for observing the Sabbath is that He worked for six days in the beginning and then rested on the seventh. We actually find the first reference to the holiness of the Sabbath in the beginning. Genesis 2:1-3 records the following:

“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

This indication is given in the beginning that this day is special to God. It is important that we point out that Sabbath keeping was not bound on man in the beginning as far as any example we have prior to Exodus 16. It was at this point when the Old Law was being put into place that the Sabbath was commanded as a day of worship and rest. However, just as it is wrong to say that keeping the Sabbath is law to us today, it is equally wrong to say that there is nothing to the Sabbath any longer. It is evident that the Sabbath was blessed by God long before the Law was put into place.

The New Testament makes clear that Sabbath observance has been removed. At Colossians 2:16 we are told that *“no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in*



Sabbath Remains

in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.” Those were part of the Old Law that had been nailed to the cross and was becoming obsolete and ready to disappear. (Hebrews 8:13) At this point it has long since disappeared as law for the Christian.

A Sabbath Rest Remains

As we have seen earlier, there were a number of different Sabbath rests. There was the one every seven years where the land was allowed to rest and there was one every forty-nine years also, in addition to the weekly Sabbath rest for people. As we would expect to be the case in this study, the Sabbath is a type of a rest that remains for the Christian.

“So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God”

~ Hebrews 4:9

The Hebrew writer makes the point in chapters 3 and 4 that there is a remaining rest. He tells us to encourage one another while it still called today so that we will not grow hardened by sin and miss out on that rest. Verses 16-19 says that those in the wilderness did not enter His rest because they provoked Him through disobedience and He swore that they would not enter.

At chapter four he explains that since the seventh day is consecrated in Genesis 2, but later it was said of the people that they would not enter His rest, then obviously there remained a rest after the Sabbath rest. It is the true Christian Sabbath, if you will. Verse 10 of chapter four says that if we are diligent we can enter that rest from our labors as did God. On day six He was done with His labor. Creation was finished. There will come a time when each of us will be finished. If we are diligent to obey Him in this life, then we can enter His rest when we lay down our labors from this life.

What then is the antitype of the Sabbath rest? It is Heaven! The Hebrew writer speaks of us living faithfully and being diligently obedient so that one day we can go to Heaven, rest from our work, and be with the Lord. That certainly sounds like a wonderful thing! Each day that passes makes us long more and more for the day when we lay down our labor and enter into His rest. He ends chapter four by explaining that no creature is hidden from the sight of God. He sees our obedience and our disobedience. May we be obedient!

This book belongs to:
