

TYPE & ANTITYPE
The Story of Cain & Abel & its application to the Last Day Church
Bible Study Notes

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat."

Genesis 4:3

This series commences the first of a new Bible study series called 'Type & Antitype', that I believe all of us who call ourselves Christians should have at least a basic understanding of what it is as it is more important than we truly realise. We see many examples of typology in the Scriptures which help to synergise both the Old & New Testament that the true potency of the Bible may be fully experienced. So, this is the task that God has set before me; to teach and explain some various examples in the Bible of typology and its application to us as Christians.

What is Typology?

In short, it helps us to understand Bible symbolism and makes clear the understanding of the Scriptures. It concerns the relationship of the Old & New Testament Scriptures; events, persons, or statements in the **Old Testament** are seen as **types** pre-figuring or superseded by **antitypes**, events or aspects of Christ and His revealing in the **New Testament**.

For e.g., in the **Old Testament**, the patriarchs and the people of Israel, were meant to sacrifice a **lamb** upon an **altar of sacrifice** for the **atonement** of their sins. However, this is fulfilled in **Christ** in the **New Testament**, as He is the true **Lamb of God**, which was slain and **sacrificed** upon the true altar, the **cross**, for the **sins of the world**.

Another typological example in the Bible can be seen in the flood story in Noah's day.

In the Old Testament, we see that the flood came upon the earth as a result of the tremendous wickedness that prevailed therein **Genesis 6:3,4-7**. Noah, a preacher of righteousness, **2nd Peter 2:5**, was sent to minister to the people of his day, that God was about to send a flood and all those who were not found in the ark, having repented of their sins, would be destroyed. Consequently, we see that most of the world rejected his message and only eight persons were saved, the rest were destroyed and all of creation with them. **This was the type**.

The antitype, which has not yet been fulfilled, but is soon upon us, can be seen in our day. Says Jesus, "*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*" **Matthew 24:37**

The everlasting Gospel message is to be preached "*unto all nations as a witness*" before the coming of the Lord. All mankind, like those living in the days of Noah, will have to make their choice whether they will repent and get into the true ark, **Jesus**, or be lost and destroyed by the glorious splendour of His Coming. **This is the antitype**.

Thy type is always fulfilled in the antitype.

"By which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. **2nd Peter 3:6-7**

With this being said, let us now study to show ourselves approved unto God and see what we can learn from the 'story' of Cain & Abel.

Our study will be focused primarily on the **Book of Genesis 4**

v.1-2

*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore **Cain**, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Then she bore again, this time his brother **Abel**. Now **Abel** was a keeper of sheep, but **Cain** was a tiller of the ground."*

Here we see that after Adam and Eve, our first parents, were cast from Paradise, *the garden of Eden*, they had two sons, the first of many children. Cain was the first born, a tiller or farmer of the ground and Abel was the second born and he was a shepherd.

Notice, that as was common in ancient culture, the first born (Cain) is mentioned first, however, in mentioning the occupations of the sons, Abel is mentioned first. This is most probably on account of the excellence of his religious character as we see later in the story that God was pleased with Abel because of his obedience to the Creator.

v.3-4

*"In the process of time it came to pass that **Cain** brought an **offering** of the **fruit of the ground** to the LORD. **Abel** also brought of the **firstborn of his flock** and of their **fat**. And the **LORD respected Abel and his offering.**"*

Here we see the pinnacle event of the account of the two brothers. One might say Cain also brought an offering to the Lord, but God showed favouritism to Abel. However, the Bible tells us that God is no respecter of persons, He does not show favouritism, in fact the Bible also tells us that irrespective of nation, tribe, tongue or people, God will accept anyone who comes to Him in obedience.

*"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." **Acts 10:34-35***

The key issue here is obedience to God. I will explain.
Firstly, we need to understand why God accepted Abel's offering.

Notice what Paul tells us in the Book of Hebrews.

*"And according to the law almost all things are **purified with blood**, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**" **Hebrews 9:22***

Without the shedding of blood there is no **remission** or **forgiveness** or **pardoning** of sins. Abel offered a **firstborn lamb** from his flock, and it was sacrificed upon the altar for the forgiveness of his sins. Here we see the typology in the firstborn lamb being slain. The plan of redemption for all mankind was already in motion and the people living on the earth at that time were by **faith** looking forward to the Great Redeemer, *the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World*, to come. **John 1:29**

In **Exodus 12** we see God giving to Moses the requirements for the Passover lamb, which was to be slain just before the Israelites were to depart from the land of Egypt.

*"Your **lamb** shall be without **blemish, a male of the first year.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats."*
Exodus 12:5

We also see God commanding to Moses that all of the first born of the Israelite males, both man and beast, were to be dedicated to Him.

*"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Consecrate to Me all the **firstborn**, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."* **Exodus 13:1**

So, by studying and comparing the Scriptures, we can see that the firstborn was to be dedicated to the Lord, also, blood had to be shed in order for there to be any remission of sins. In addition, the lamb had to be without blemish, in the same way the True Lamb, the first born of Mary, was without blemish, without sin, for He was *"tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin..."* **Hebrews 4:15**

*"Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: When any one of you **brings an offering to the LORD**, you shall **bring your offering of the livestock**—of the herd and of the flock. If his offering is of the flocks—of the **sheep** or of the **goats**—as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring **a male without blemish.** He shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar. And he shall cut it into its pieces, with its head and **its fat**; and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar; but he shall wash the entrails and the legs with water. Then the priest shall bring it all and **burn it on the altar**; it is a burnt sacrifice, **an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.**"* **Leviticus 1:2,10-13**

When we read the Levitical laws which God gave to the Moses, to give to the people of Israel, we see how God is **a God of order** and not a God of confusion. Each ceremonial step in the process of the sacrifice of the lamb had to be carried out in a certain way because this sacrifice pointed to the promised Redeemer, the True Lamb of God, which was to be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

This is the reason God did not accept Cain's sacrifice. Yes, Cain brought the first fruits of his harvest before the Lord, but this is not what God required. Cain refused to follow God's commands and instead, offered to God what he wanted and the way he wanted to offer it, and this cannot work. We must obey God and live in accordance to His Word.

*"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone **loves Me, he will keep My word...**"* **John 14:23**

We must be obedient to all of God's Word for man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord. Says the Prophet Samuel, *"to **obey is better than sacrifice...**"*

As we proceed into the story of Cain and Abel, we see that because God had accepted Abel's sacrifice above Cain's, Cain was now exceedingly wroth and decided to kill his brother, which he did. This leads us into our closing point.

As Cain and Abel both decided to offer a sacrifice before the Lord, we can say that they were both worshippers of God. Had Cain not acknowledge God as the Creator of all things and the one true God, why else would he have been giving an offering upon the altar?

Cain and Abel both represent those who profess the name of Christ. One serves God according to their own way and their own standard, *Cain*, and the other serves God according to His Word and His Commandments, *Abel*.

*"Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father in heaven.**"* **Matthew 7:21**

It is not those who only profess the name of Christ that shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, rather it is those who after professing the name of Christ also do His will.

In the same way that Cain persecuted his own brother for his righteousness, so will many in the Church in the last days who persist in worshipping God according to their own way and standards, persecute those faithful Christians who are serving God according to His Holy Word and keeping His Commandments.

The Bible tells us clearly that satan knows that he has but a short time, therefore because he is exceedingly wroth with God's faithful remnant of believers, he shall seek to, by the use, *however not exclusively*, of those unconverted Christians in the Church, persecute and kill those who are faithfully serving God.

"And the dragon [satan] was wroth with the woman [the church], and he went to make war with the remnant of her seed [faithful true Christians in the last days], those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." **Revelation 12:17**

Unable to destroy Christianity and the Church as a whole, satan will seek to focus his efforts and direct his enmity against the elect remnant, true Bible believing Christians in the last days; the rest he leaves unbothered. This is the same ploy we see between Cain and Abel. Satan used Cain to persecute the true Christian, in this case Abel, who was serving God faithfully according to His Word.

*"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done and there is **nothing new under the sun.**"* **Ecclesiastes 1:9**

*"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come... traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power.**"* **2nd Timothy 3:1,4**

The Apostle Paul tells us that in the last days, many will have "**a form of godliness.**" Many will profess to be Christians but will refuse to follow God faithfully in spirit and in truth. They will reject His Word and the statutes and commandments therein, choosing instead to base their beliefs on what they believe and what their itching ears want to hear, living as close to worldliness as possible and not coming to true repentance. Of such people Paul says, "*turn away!*"

*"For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but according to **their own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will **heap up for themselves teachers**; and they will **turn their ears away from the truth** and be turned aside to fables."* **2nd Timothy 4:3-4**

Many in these last days profess to be called Christians, many profess, as did Cain to be worshippers of the One True God, JEHOVAH, however, they refuse to live by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God and as it was in the days of Cain and Abel, so shall it be in the days before the Second Coming of Jesus. We must expect betrayal from our close loved ones, all those who are not fully converted, even in the Church, for the time of trouble is soon upon us, and those with the spirit of Cain shall seek to persecute those with the spirit of Abel. However, having said this, we shall be victorious at the end of it all, not a hair of our heads shall perish.

"...yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them."

John 16:2,3,4

