

# Typology

## TYPOLOGY – WHAT IS IT?

- St. Augustine said: *“The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled (or revealed) in the New.”*
- A **TYPE** (typos in Gk), or “archetype” in Scripture is a symbol often called a “shadow” or “parable” or “allegory” or “figure” or “hint”
  - ⇒ It refers to a person, thing, or action that precedes and prefigures a **greater** person, thing, or action (often referred to as an “antitype”).
  - ⇒ Romans 5:14
  - ⇒ 1 Cor. 10:11
  - ⇒ Hebrews 10:1

Some examples of types and antitypes:

TYPE	ANTITYPE
Adam, Moses, Melchizedech	Christ
Eve	Mary
Abel's sacrifice, Sacrifice of Isaac	Christ's Sacrifice (pleasing to God)
Noah's Ark	The Church
The Great Flood	Baptism
Manna	Eucharist
Ark of the Covenant	Mary (Theotokos) – Ark of the New Covenant
Queen of Sheba	The Magi
Sabbath	Mass
Passover	Easter
Old Testament priesthood	New Testament priesthood
Life on earth	Eternal life

- Characteristics of a Type:
  1. The type (usually found in the OT) is ALWAYS inferior to the antitype it prefigures (usually in the NT).
  2. The type has its own historical reality, but is intended by the Holy Spirit to also foreshadow what is to come (or what came) -- to indicate those things which are in eternal glory.
  3. An OT type never points to a NT symbol – only to the reality of what the symbol represents.
  4. The type has no power to save; all power is reserved for the much greater reality

Example: manna

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### First Day of the Week?

- ⇒ **Islam** – the Koran states Friday as the “king of days”, thus Saturday = 1<sup>st</sup> day of week
- ⇒ **Old Testament** - According to the Bible, God created the Earth in six days, and rested on the seventh day, the Sabbath, i.e. Saturday. This made Sunday the first day of the week, while Saturdays were reserved for celebration and rest.
- ⇒ After the week was adopted in Early Christian Europe, Sunday remained the first day of the week, but also gradually displaced Saturday as the day of celebration and rest, being considered the Lord's Day.
- ⇒ The increasing use of the two-day weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in the 19th and 20th centuries helped propagate the use of Monday as the beginning of the week.
- ⇒ In 1988, the body which governs international standards passed ISO 8601, which set the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week as Monday.

### REFLECTION/JOURNAL

- Read Genesis 14:18-20, Hebrews 7:11-28 (AGAIN!)

*What are the characteristics of Melchizedek that make him a helpful prototype for understanding the work of Jesus?*

*How can I unite the sacrifices and offering of my life to the one, perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ? Does his perfect sacrifice make my sacrifices seem less significant or more significant?*

*Why is there only one priest and only one sacrifice in the age of the new covenant?*