

Typology

A Jewish Midrashic method of interpretation.

BY DR BRUCE WOOLARD

MIDRASH TYPOLOGY

The truth of Scripture weaved into one whole fabric of logic, brings clarity and clear understanding to the reader of Holy Scripture.

OLD TESTAMENT TYPOLOGY – ABRAHAM, ISAAC, ELIEZER & REBEKAH.

 **Read the story in Genesis 24:1-67**

The four main characters in this narrative are Abraham, Isaac, Eliezer and Rebekah. Furthermore, with our understanding of the New Testament we have the writer referring to the church as a bride. Remember that this is a metaphor. (2 Corinthians 11:2)

2 Cor 11:2: *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*

The Holy Spirit brings people to the knowledge of knowing Christ Jesus as Saviour and His express mission is to bring people to the knowledge of salvation (John 16:13).

John 16:13 *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.”*

God the Father is the Head of the Trinity and is glorified through His Son and revealed through the Holy Spirit. Here we see that: Abraham typifies God the Father, Isaac typifies the Son, Eliezer typifies the Holy Spirit and Rebekah typifies the Bride of Christ.

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In this story:

1. **ABRAHAM IS A TYPE (SHADOW) OF 'GOD'**

2. **ISAAC A TYPE (SHADOW) OF 'CHRIST'**

A. Both Isaac and Christ were CHILDREN OF PROMISE (Genesis 15:4; Isaiah 7:14)
B. The birth of both was PRE-ANNOUNCED (Genesis 18:10; Luke 1:30-31)
C. Both were NAMED BEFORE THEIR BIRTH – Isaac (Genesis 17:19) Jesus (Luke 1:31)
D. The birth of both was CONTRARY TO NATURE – Sarah was barren (Genesis 11:30), Mary was a virgin (Matthew 1:18-20)
E. Both are called an ONLY SON (Genesis 22:2; Hebrews 11:17; John 3:16)
F. Both were mocked and persecuted by their OWN KINDRED (Genesis 21:9-10; Galatians 4:28-29; Matthew 27:29)
G. Neither Isaac nor Christ had BROKEN THE LAW that they should be offered up (Genesis 22:2; Matthew 27:24)
H. As Isaac carried the wood on which he was to die, so Christ carried His OWN CROSS (Genesis 22:6; John 19:17)
I. As Isaac went willingly to the altar, so Christ went willingly to the CROSS (Genesis 22:9; John 10:17)
J. Both apparently were given up or FORSAKEN BY HIS FATHER (Genesis 22:12; Matthew 27:46)
K. Both rose from the place of death in RESURRECTION (Hebrews 11:17-19; Matthew 28:6)

3. ELIEZER A TYPE OF THE “HOLY SPIRIT”

A. As Eliezer was a servant of Abraham, an agent, so the Holy Spirit is a “Agent of God”
B. As Eliezer’s mission was to go to Haran and get a bride for Isaac, so the Holy Spirit has been sent from Heaven to get a BRIDE FOR CHRIST .
C. As Eliezer was not sent to get a bride for Isaac until after he was typically offered up so the Holy Spirit was not sent to get a Bride for Christ until AFTER HIS DEATH AND RESURRUCTION .
D. As Eliezer did not talk about himself but about his Master’s son so the Holy Spirit does not talk about HIMSELF BUT ABOUT CHRIST .
E. As Eliezer was urgent so the Holy Spirit is URGENT (Genesis 24:53-56; 2 Corinthians 6:2)
F. As Eliezer by the precious gifts he gave Rebekah revealed the wealth of his Master Isaac so the Holy Spirit by His Gifts gives us a foretaste of what is in store for the Bride of Christ the Church
G. When Eliezer got Rebekah’s consent to be the bride of Isaac he himself took her back; he did not send her back while he remained with her kinsfolk. So when the Bride the Church is ready the HOLY SPIRIT WILL GO BACK TO HEAVEN WITH HER .

Genesis 24:53-56 *“Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewellery and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother. Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there. When they got up the next morning, he said, “Send me on my way to my master.” But her brother and her mother replied, “Let the young woman remain with us ten days or so; then you may go.” But he said to them, “Do not detain me, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.”*

2 Corinthians 6:2 *“For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation.”*

4. REBEKAH A TYPE OF THE 'BRIDE OF CHRIST'

A.	As Rebekah believed and yielded to the pleadings of Eliezer so the Church believes and yields to the pleadings of the HOLY SPIRIT
B.	As Rebekah was willing to separate herself from her kinsfolk for Isaac's sake so the Believer is willing to separate himself from his kinsfolk for JESUS' SAKE
C.	As Eliezer on the way to Isaac told Rebekah all about his Master Isaac and what was in store for her so the Holy Spirit as we journey on our earthly pilgrimage tells us what is in store for us when we shall meet our Isaac – JESUS
D.	As Rebekah was a Gentile bride so the Church of Christ is a GENTILE BRIDE . While Rebekah was a kinswoman of Isaac she was a Gentile for while Abraham was the first Hebrew his kin people were Gentiles for the Jews are the descendants of Judah the fourth son of Abraham's grandson Jacob.
E.	As Rebekah did not have to pass through any tribulation before she left her home to go to Isaac so the Church will not have to pass through THE TRIBULATION before meeting Jesus
F.	As Isaac left his home and went out into the field to meet Rebekah so Jesus will DESCEND FROM HEAVEN TO MEET HIS BRIDE THE CHURCH IN THE AIR .
G.	As it was "eventide" when Isaac met Rebekah so it will be the EVEN TIDE OF THIS DISPENSATION WHEN JESUS MEETS HIS CHURCH , as His bride.

NOTE: The New Jerusalem is also referred to as a bridge.
Revelation 21:2 *"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."*

By now you should have a good understanding of how to apply the Typological interpretation, and are probably excited by the wonderful and rich insight this method gives you as you read the Scripture. It really makes the Old Testament come alive!