

# The High Priest Typology

**Typology:** the study and interpretation of types and shadows found in the scriptures concerning the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament.

It is said, the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. All types and shadows given in the Old Testament, point to the person, work and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Type:** a person or thing symbolizing or exemplifying the ideal or defining characteristics of someone or something. A person, thing, or event found in the Old Testament that represents a reality fulfilled in the New Testament.

**Shadow:** is used in reference to a position of relative inferiority or obscurity. A shadow is a figure of the true, not completely defined or understood until the reality of the true is present.

There are many examples of types and shadows found in the scriptures.

**John 5:39 & 46, 39** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me...46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.*

**Hebrews 10:7** *Then said I, Lo, I come in the volume of the book it is written of me, to do thy will, O God.*

**Romans 15:4** *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

**1 Corinthians 10:11** *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

We will not try to make an exhaustive study of all the types and shadows found in the Bible, though there are many to be found and studied that will add priceless worth to your understanding and confidence in the scriptures.

We will point out a few types and shadows that are worth mentioning relating to this study of the High Priest typology.

The Bible tells us in **Hebrews 3:1** and **Hebrews 4:14**

**Hebrews 3:1** *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.*

**Hebrews 4:14** *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

The Old Covenant tabernacle, the Levitical priesthood with its service, and the sacrifices, were all established to serve as types and shadows of the true heavenly tabernacle and the ministry of our eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ.

In fact, the entire Old Covenant was a temporary earthly type and shadow of the everlasting New Covenant that began to be established at the Lord's appearance.

**Hebrews 9:1-3, 1** *Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the showbread; which is called the sanctuary. 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all.*

**Hebrews 9:6-10, 6** Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. **7** But into the second went the High Priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: **8** The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: **9** Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; **10** Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

The time of reformation began with the ministry of John the Baptist and was completely fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the earthly city Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. At which point the New Covenant, which is the new heavens and the new earth, was permanently established by Jesus.

According to **Hebrews 9:8** at the time when the first tabernacle was removed was when the Holiest of all was made accessible to covenant people.

**Hebrews 9:8** The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

The priesthood of the Old Covenant, was ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices under the law: for the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices make the comer's thereunto perfect; That priesthood was ordained to serve in the worldly sanctuary under the carnal ordinances of the Law, and was destined to be removed and replaced with the everlasting priesthood of Christ Jesus, called of God an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec.

**Hebrews 5: 5 -6** *So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

**Hebrews 5:8 -10** *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; called of God an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

**Hebrews 7:1-3** *For this Melchisedec, King of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of Righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of Peace; without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

As the Covenant of God was being redefined from:

- The Old Covenant to the New Covenant.
- from an earthly country to a heavenly country.
- from a natural people, to a spiritual people;
- from a worldly city to a heavenly city, whose builder and maker is God.
- from a worldly temple made with hands, to a spiritual temple made without hands.
- from animal sacrifices to spiritual sacrifices.

So also, was the priesthood redefined, from a pattern which served unto the example and shadow of heavenly things; to an unchangeable priesthood that serves the true heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices.

**Hebrews 7:23-24** *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

**Hebrews 7:28** *For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.*

**Hebrews 9:24** *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

The High Priest was one taken from among the Levitical priesthood and was appointed as the spiritual leader who represented the nation of Israel before the Almighty God.

**Hebrews 5:1** *says: for every High Priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:*

This is referring to the act of Atonement offered by the High Priest, once every year for the sins of the covenant people, in accordance with the law.

**Hebrews 9:6-7, 6** *Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7 But into the second went the High Priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:*

Found in **Leviticus Chapter 16**. Aaron, who was the first High Priest, was instructed to come once every year into the holy place with sin offerings, first for himself, and then for the children of Israel.

And he took of the blood of the sin offerings and sprinkled it with his finger upon the altar and the mercy seat that was within the veil, making the atonement.

**Hebrews 9:22** *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

God commanded Moses to institute the atonement offering, the blood was to make atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so it was done for the holy sanctuary, and the tabernacle of the congregation, for the alter, for the high priest and the priesthood, and for all the covenant people of the congregation.

**Leviticus 16:30** *For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.*

It is important to note in **Leviticus 16:17**

**Leviticus 16:17** *And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.*

There was no one else present to witness the act of atonement but the High Priest alone.

In **Leviticus 9:1-24** After Moses had consecrated Aaron and his sons according to all the commandments of the Lord, it is recorded that the first act of Aaron, as High Priest, was to make atonement for himself and for the people.

The point to be highlighted is found in **verses 23 and 24 of Chapter 9**

**Leviticus 9:23-24, 23** *And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. 24* *And there came a fire out from before the LORD and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted and fell on their faces.*

Notice that it wasn't until Aaron, the High Priest, came out from the tabernacle and returned to the people that God considered the Atonement complete.

The scripture shows that it wasn't until after the High Priest returned and showed himself to the people, for whom the Atonement had been made, that the glory of the Lord then appeared and the fire from before the Lord consumed the burnt offering upon the altar, this witnessing that the LORD God had accepted the offerings.

The glory did not appear, and the fire did not fall while the High Priest was still inside the tabernacle, though the sacrifices were already complete.

Now the scripture does not record that the glory of the Lord, and the fire came from before the Lord for a witness every year that the Atonement was made from that time forth.

So how were the people to know that the atonement was complete and accepted from year to year? So, it was the returning of the High Priest himself back to the people that was the witness of the completion and acceptance of the Atonement that had been made.

**Romans 15:4** *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

Everything relating to the service of the priesthood and to the temple cultus were by specific design and given with detailed instructions that were received by Moses directly from God upon Mt. Sinai.

**Hebrews 8:5** *Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.*

Everything had meaning and purpose, and it was all pointing to the actual true reality in heaven. Nothing was overlooked; nothing was without significance.

The **Who**, **What**, **When**, **Where** and **How** of the priestly service was all directed by God and it all represented the true everlasting priesthood of Christ Jesus.

So also, every detail of the act of Atonement, from the sacrifices to the entering in and the sprinkling with blood, and the return of the High Priest to the people all had significance and meaning, pointing to the actual fulfillment of the offering up of God Himself, in Christ.

Every year, for fifteen hundred years, the High Priests would continually offer the blood of bulls and goats for the sins of the people. Though the scripture says, it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. It was all pointing to the one sacrifice that would eternally take away the sin of the world.

**Hebrews 9:11-12** *But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*



**Hebrews 9:24** *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence of God for us:***

The writer of Hebrews told the first century saints that Jesus was at that time, in heaven and had made Atonement for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament and for the sins of those which are called and chosen under the New Testament, that they all might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

**Hebrews 9:11** *But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come.*

The writer said that those good things were **still to come**; they had not yet fully come because Atonement was not yet complete, the High Priest had not yet reappeared to the people.

Remember at that time; it was the transition period between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. People were receiving eternal life through the gospel of the New Covenant while the priests were still in the temple conducting business as usual under the Law of the Old Covenant. Both were present at that time.

**Hebrews 8:4** *For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there **are priests that offer gifts according to the law:***

**Hebrews 8:13** *In that he saith, a New Covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old **is ready to vanish away.***

According to the High Priest typology, the High Priest, as a representative of the people, made an offering for the sins of the people in the presence of God.

And as we previously discussed, the Atonement was not considered complete until the High Priest returned from the sanctuary back to the people, as a witness to the acceptance of the offering.

Just like the people of the Old Covenant anxiously waited for the return of the High Priest from the worldly tabernacle, those first century saints were looking for the return of the High Priest of the New Covenant from the heavenly tabernacle.

They absolutely expected, based on the words of the Lord Jesus Himself and repeated by His Apostles, that Jesus would appear with salvation/atonement **in their lifetime**.

**Hebrews 9:28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him **shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation**.

**Hebrews 10:37** For yet a little while, **and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry**.

**He will not delay; would you consider nearly two thousand years a delay?**

This creates a major problem for those that hold to the futuristic return of Christ. By promoting the futuristic view, they are unknowingly saying that our salvation is not complete, and Jesus has not yet finished His High Priestly act of Atonement, because He has not yet appeared from the heavenly tabernacle.

**If Jesus has not returned, our salvation is not complete.**

Atonement for our sins is not yet complete; heaven is not accessible because our sins still separate us from God. Just like the Old Covenant saints, we would still be waiting for salvation to come when our High Priest reappears.

But we that have received the truth know that He is faithful that promised, and our Lord comforted those first century saints saying:

***“for yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry”***, and again,

***“to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass”***; and in another place;

***“keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”***, and,

***“this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled.”***

He did return exactly when He said He would; He has provided complete salvation; heaven is accessible because we have received the atonement for our sins through His blood and our High Priest did appear the second time unto salvation.

That holy city, New Jerusalem, is a reality today. We that believe have been born into the everlasting Kingdom of God. We are raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus today!

***Revelation 21:3-4 & 10, 3*** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ***Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men***, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ***4*** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ***10*** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me ***that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,***

**Isaiah 25:6-9, 6** And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. 7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 **He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces;** and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. 9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

And unto them that waited for him in the first century, he did appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Today we can rejoice in the salvation of our God! We can have absolute confidence that today is the day of salvation.

Now, we are in the New Jerusalem, that great city and the gates of it shall not be shut at all. Now, the glory of God and the light of the Lamb are shining into our hearts and have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we are reigning on the earth with Him.

Today the Spirit and the bride say, **“Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”**, that is made available today.

We have eternal life now; we’re not waiting for a future time of resurrection and judgement. Sin has already been judged; we that have believed the gospel and that are washed in His Name and have been filled with the Holy Spirit have received resurrection life now!

There is no grave, there is no death for us; they have been swallowed up in victory by the salvation of our God.

***Psalms 13:5*** But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

***Psalms 35:9*** And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

***Psalms 118:24*** This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**What rejoicing the reality of fulfilled eschatology brings!**

**What confidence in the scriptures!**

**We have already received that everlasting Kingdom and today every promise of God in Him are yea and in Him amen!**

Futurism cannot say the same, though they claim to have salvation, the scriptures say in **Hebrews 9:28** that Jesus will bring salvation with Him when He appears.

So, they are waiting for a day that they say has not yet come, salvation to them is incomplete. They are looking for a time to come that the scriptures say has already arrived, yet they cannot see it because they are looking to the future.

Turn around and look back to His generation, where He said, ***“This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”***

Someone must proclaim the truth. The scripture says that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. How can people believe in what they have not heard, and how shall they hear without someone willing to speak?

Someone must love God enough and love the truth enough to stand up against the traditions of men and begin speaking the Words of God, rightly divided, so that others can hear and believe.

Jesus was not persecuted for His works; everyone rejoiced and gave God glory for His miracles. But it was His words that caused division. His words were so challenging to the hearers that His works had to be used as a witness to testify of the truthfulness of His words, that the hearers might believe.

It was His words that caused the religious leaders to conspire to kill Him. It was His words caused the sinner to draw close to Him with a repentant heart.

The Light of the knowledge of salvation came through His words. Peter said, ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”*** Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

That is why we have committed ourselves to make these studies.

- Someone out there is listening, somebody is going take God at His word and believe.
- Somebody is going to open their heart and read for their self and prove that these words are true, so help us God.
- Someone is going to receive the true riches of heaven and the confidence to live a life of faith in the Word of God. That’s why we are going to continue to do studies, and we ask that you continue to study along with us.

God bless you.

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