

DEFINING BIBLICAL TYPOLOGY

Typology: a person, office, place, institution, event, or thing in salvation history that anticipates, shares correspondences with, escalates toward, and resolves in Jesus

EVENTS IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

1/ Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1, ESV

The first creation is pointing to and anticipating a new creation.

But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13, ESV

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." Revelation 21:1, ESV

Why? Because of the work of Christ.

2/ The Garden

From the cosmic creation, the focus is narrowed to a garden in Eden.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden... And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Genesis 2:9; 3:8, ESV

The Garden of Eden is pointing to and anticipating a new "Eden."

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:2, ESV

The old Eden was corrupted, but a new Eden will emerge.

Why? Because of the work of Christ!

3/ The Tree of Life

Even more focused is a river and the Tree of Life in Eden.

And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. Genesis 2:9-10, ESV

Human disobedience banned us from the Tree of Life in Eden, but the obedience of Christ offers us access to the Tree of Life in eternity.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16, ESV

4/ Marriage

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24, ESV

The union of Adam and Eve points to and anticipates Christ and His Bride (aka the Church).

It's alluded to in the Old Testament (Exodus 24; Hosea 1), but this type of relationship is personified in Christ.

Both relationships reflect a depth of intimacy, commitment, sacrificial love, order, and oneness.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Revelation 19:9, ESV

5/ Garments

God's covering of Adam and Eve is a foreshadow of Christ's covering.

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Genesis 3:21, ESV

Their attempts to cover themselves failed; in the same way our works fail.

The Father covered their sin and shame through blood sacrifice.

...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:22b, ESV

...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7, ESV

5/ Exile

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24, ESV

Human sinfulness banished us from the first Paradise, but Christ's sinlessness gives us access to a new Paradise.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6, ESV