TALKING POINTS

Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Quarter 4, Lesson 10

"The True Joshua"

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MEMORY VERSE: "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 Corinthians 10:11, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson explores the biblical concept of typology and how Joshua is a type of Christ.

1. Typology is a biblically valid interpretive framework (Sun)

- "Typology is a specific interpretation of persons, events, or institutions that prefigure Jesus or other realities contained in the gospel." Qtly, Sun, par 2
- The Bible explicitly invokes the type/antitype construct.
    - The typological concept—and even the Greek words for type/antitype (typos/antitypos)—are used in Scripture (see Rom. 5:14; Heb. 8:5, 9:23).
        - This is similar to how the Bible reveals historicism as the correct approach for interpreting prophecy.
- Type/antitype correlations were part of God's omniscient plan (1 Cor. 10:1-4, 11).
    - "The biblical type was shaped according to a divine design that had existed concretely, or conceptually, in the mind of God, and it serves to shape future copies (antitypes)." Qtly, Sun, par 2
    - David is a prime example of biblical typology (compare Ps. 22:1, 14-18 to Jn. 19:24).
- Scripture interprets its own typology.
    - "It is crucial to understand that the writers of the New Testament did not randomly attribute a typological meaning to some Old Testament texts in order to make a point… the Old Testament itself provides the key for identifying and applying types in the Scriptures." Qtly, Sun, par 4, 5
        - The Bible explains how Adam, the sacrifices and Sanctuary services, the Rock, David, etc. are all types prefiguring Christ (Jn. 5:39, 40).

2. Types can have multiple antitypes (Mon)

- NT authors apply OT types in three ways:
    - **Christological** fulfillments in the life and ministry of Jesus.
    - **Ecclesiological** fulfillments in the experience of the church.
    - **Eschatological** fulfillments at the end of time.
- Israel, the Exodus, and the Sanctuary are each historical realities that are also types with fulfillments in the life of Christ, the experience of the church, and in end-time events (see outline on Qtly, Mon).

3. Joshua prefigures Christ and His church (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- Joshua, as a type, has a Christological fulfillment.
    - Joshua's entrance into Canaan after 40 years of wilderness wandering prefigures Christ's public ministry beginning after His 40 days in the wilderness of temptation and likewise the commencement of His heavenly ministry after 40 days with His disciples after His resurrection.
    - Isaiah invokes the imagery of the historical allotment of Promised Land as inheritance (under the administration of Joshua) as a type of Christ's ministry as Messiah (Is. 49:8).
- Joshua, as a type, also has an ecclesiological/eschatological fulfillment.
    - The historical wars led by Joshua in taking possession of Canaan are types of the spiritual battles Christians face as they seek the Heavenly Canaan (2 Tim 4:7; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Acts 20:32).
    - The final inheritance will be given to God's faithful people when Christ returns (1 Pet 1:3-5; Col 3:23, 24).

CONCLUSION

> Christ's mission was not understood by the people of His time… The traditions, maxims, and enactments of men hid from them the lessons which God intended to convey. These maxims and traditions became an obstacle to their understanding and practice of true religion. And when the Reality came, in the person of Christ, they did not recognize in Him the fulfillment of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. They rejected the antitype, and clung to their types and useless ceremonies." COL 34, 35 (Qtly, Sab, par 2)