

Symbols and Types

I. Introduction – The Symbolic Language of the Bible

- A. The whole of Scripture in a nutshell
 - 1. First three chapters of Genesis - _____
 - 2. The rest of the Bible – God’s plan of _____
- B. All Scripture speaks of God’s _____, and must be interpreted through that light
 - 1. God uses natural events to be _____ and revelatory pertaining to His redemptive plan.
 - 2. God is telling us, “Look at creation, it reveals the hidden truths of the kingdom.”
 - a) The language of _____ becomes...
 - b) The language of _____ becomes...
 - c) The language of _____.

II. Symbols

- A. Symbol – from two Greek words
- B. Classification of Symbols
 - 1. Symbolic _____
 - 2. Symbolic _____

3. Symbolic _____

4. Symbolic _____

5. Symbolic _____

6. Symbolic _____

7. Symbolic _____

C. Guidelines for Interpreting symbols –

1. Symbolic interpretation must be used in _____.

2. Generally speaking, the Bible _____ its own symbols.

3. Sometimes a symbol represents _____

4. Symbols often have both a _____ and a _____ aspect to them

5. If the symbol is uninterpreted in the Word, the believer must examine the surrounding _____ for the idea. The nature of the symbol gives a clue to its interpretation (swine, lamb, scorpion, etc.)

6. The things that links a symbol with the object it represents are the _____ of both.

III. Types

A. Type – from Greek “tupos”

B. Differences between a type and a symbol

Symbol	Type
1. One thing stands for or represents another	One thing prefigures another event or person, a thing to come.
2. May represent a thing, either past present or future	Is a prefiguring of something future from itself
3. Has no reference to time	Has inherent in itself a reference to time
4. Designed to represent certain characteristics or qualities in that which it represents	Designed to be a pre-ordained representation of someone or something to come
5. To be interpreted, requires pointing out the characteristics, qualities, marks, or features common to both the symbol and that which it symbolizes	To be interpreted, generally requires a setting forth of an extended analogy between the type and that which it typifies

Examples of Symbols	Examples of Types
The rock in Psalm 18:2 The candlesticks in Revelation 1:20 The lamb in John 1:29 The rainbow in Genesis 9:13-16 The olive trees in Zechariah 4:3 The color white in Revelation 19:8 The number 666 in Revelation 13:18	Adam in Romans 5:14 Animal sacrifices in Leviticus The offices of prophet, priest and king in 1 Kings 1:34 The Tabernacle of Moses in Exodus 25-40 Jonah’s experience in the fish in Matthew 12:39-41

C. Classification of types

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

D. Types are usually _____ in nature, that is, they prophecy things to come that will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

IV. Cautions:

- A. Types should not be used to _____

- B. If there’s no _____ to our everyday relationship with Jesus Christ, all our understanding of symbols, types, etc. is a waste of time.

- C. We must remember that only _____ can reveal the true interpretations behind all the symbolic language in the Scriptures.

- D. It’s wise not to get too _____ about what you think He’s saying. It’s easy to get “spooky weird” with symbolic interpretation.