

# BIBLE 101 — Week 16

## How the Old Testament Previews the New

*Scripture Focus: Numbers 21:4–9 · John 3:14–15 · Genesis 37–50*

### KEY VOCABULARY — scan this before you watch

Term	What It Means
<b>Type</b>	A real historical person, event, or thing from the OT intentionally designed by God to be a _____ of something bigger in the NT
<b>Antitype</b>	The bigger, better New Testament _____ that the type was pointing to all along
<b>Illustration</b>	A God-designed story that beautifully reflects Jesus but isn't a direct one-to-one _____ — like Joseph
<b>Allegory (danger zone)</b>	Throwing out the historical story and hunting for secret _____ meanings based on pure imagination, not the text

### I. THE QUESTION: MASTERPIECE OR IMAGINATION?

The Old Testament is filled with people, events, and rituals that seem to hint at something more — like they're casting long \_\_\_\_\_ forward in time.

When we spot amazing parallels between the OT and NT, are we uncovering a masterpiece God wove into \_\_\_\_\_ itself?

Or are we just getting creative — seeing faces in the \_\_\_\_\_ and imposing our own patterns onto the text?

### II. WHAT IS A BIBLICAL TYPE?

#### The shadow analogy:

- **Type = shadow:** A real thing — you can see its \_\_\_\_\_, but it's fuzzy, lacking color and detail
- **Antitype = the real deal:** The glorious, substantial \_\_\_\_\_ the shadow was pointing to all along

#### The Three-Point Toolkit: Three checks before calling something a type

CHECK	THE QUESTION	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
<b>1. Real History</b>	Is this a real _____ or event?	Not secret codes — actual historical reality
<b>2. Divine Design</b>	Is there solid _____ God planned this connection?	Not random coincidence — intentional foreshadowing
<b>3. Greater Reality</b>	Is the NT fulfillment bigger, better, more _____?	There must be a serious escalation from shadow to substance

This toolkit moves us from pure \_\_\_\_\_ to solid interpretation.

### III. THREE CATEGORIES: TYPE, ILLUSTRATION, OR ALLEGORY?

CATEGORY	HONORS HISTORY?	DIVINE DESIGN?	STATUS
Type	Yes — real event	Yes — confirmed in _____	Solid ground
Illustration	Yes — real _____	Yes — but no direct NT _____	Safe ground
Allegory	No — ignores _____	No — pure _____	DANGER ZONE

### IV. SEEING IT IN ACTION

#### Example 1 — The Bronze Serpent (Confirmed Type)

- **Real history?** Yes — Numbers 21: Moses lifted a bronze \_\_\_\_\_ on a pole and those who looked at it were healed
- **Divine design?** Yes — Jesus Himself confirms it:

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”*

— John 3:14–15 (ESV)

- **Greater reality?** Without a doubt — the \_\_\_\_\_ is infinitely greater than a bronze snake on a pole
- **Verdict:** Clear, confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Example 2 — Joseph (Powerful Illustration)

- The parallels to Jesus are mind-blowing — people have counted over \_\_\_\_\_ of them
- Someone who suffers unjustly, is \_\_\_\_\_, and then saves his people
- **But:** The NT never comes out and says Joseph is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
- **Verdict:** A powerful God-designed \_\_\_\_\_ — safer ground than calling it a formal type

#### Example 3 — Allegorizing (The Danger Zone)

- "The acacia wood in the tabernacle represents Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_ and the gold overlay represents His divinity"
- Sounds spiritual, but it's not based on the \_\_\_\_\_ — it's based on pure imagination
- **Verdict:** Allegory — throws \_\_\_\_\_ out the window

#### ⏸ PAUSE & REFLECT

Think about the Joseph story. Why is it important to call it a 'powerful illustration' rather than a confirmed type? What's the difference — and why does the distinction matter?

## V. THE GOLDEN RULE: HONOR THE STORY FIRST

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**Your default setting:** Before looking for anything else, let the story be the \_\_\_\_\_.

First understand Joseph's story as \_\_\_\_\_ story — a gripping tale about family drama, betrayal, faithfulness under pressure, and God's mind-bending providence.

The Old Testament isn't just the opening act for the New Testament. It has its own \_\_\_\_\_, its own power, its own theological weight.

Finding types and illustrations adds a whole new layer of \_\_\_\_\_ — it doesn't replace the original meaning.

**The bigger point:**

The goal isn't proving how smart we are as Bible readers.

It's about standing in awe of a God who is such a master \_\_\_\_\_ that He weaves one single epic story of redemption through the messy fabric of real human history.

When we see it that way, reading the Bible becomes an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between a type, an illustration, and an allegory? Why is the three-point toolkit important for keeping us on solid ground?

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2. Think of an OT story you've heard called a 'type of Christ.' Run it through the three checks: real history, divine design, greater reality. Where does it land?

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3. Why is it so important to honor the OT story on its own terms before looking for connections to Jesus? How does this protect us from reading things into the text?

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