

What do the Old Testament Laws & Odd Regulations have to do with us today?

Teacher: Yvon Prehn

How to get through Exodus-Numbers

- After the familiar stories of Genesis and the first of Exodus, which most people know from the movie the 10 Commandments (which is pretty accurate)
- We are now into one of the hardest sections of the Bible for many people to read
- It's where many good intentions of reading through the Bible break down and people skip them entirely
- But if you do that, you are robbing yourself of the understanding you will have of the entire Bible, if you read these sections
- The prophets will make sense
- And your understanding of the New Testament will be so much richer

But that isn't to say that you don't need a little help in getting through them

- Which is what this series is all about!
- Overall tips for the passages you'll be reading:
- Don't get bogged down in details at your first read-through
- In addition to what we are doing in these classes, a good study Bible (the Life Application Bible is very good) can help
- Overall it will also help if you understand these TWO concepts as you read: God's Expectations and Typology
- Let's look at each one

God's Expectations

- Remember the expectations we are talking about here are God's
- What are His expectations towards humanity that we see in these books?
- *Spoiler alert: many won't like hearing what I have to say here*
- Especially important for us today when so much of Christianity has been reduced to uplifting talks about what will make you feel better in the coming week
- A trust in Jesus as Savior will result in your ultimately feeling better, so much better than you can ever imagine in eternity
- And though God promises to be with you in all the challenges of life and that they will ultimately turn out for good—there is no guarantee that that

good will happen in this life, let alone by next week as we would like it to.

- God expects you to understand that.

KEEP IN MIND!

Understanding God's True Expectations of humanity keeps us from worshipping a false god, one made in our image and from being disappointed when that god doesn't do what we want.

So, what are some of the God's Expectations we will learn from reading these books?

- What God expects from the people He redeems
 - God showed his great love and care in redeeming his people from Egypt—a picture of pure grace because they did not earn or deserve deliverance—just like salvation for us today
 - BUT He didn't take Israel out of Egypt or give us salvation so we could just do whatever we want
 - God's expectation for Israel then and Christians today is that they are to be God's witness, his ambassadors to the world and that requires that we understand:
- How God wants to be worshipped
 - He gives detailed instructions that have a current and future meaning (typology will explain this more)
- How He wants us to live
 - No this doesn't mean following all the Old Testament dietary and social laws (which we will discuss in more detail as we go along and into the New Testament because Jesus and Paul clarify a lot of this)
 - Overall principle is that God expects HIS people to be different, to live holy, set-apart lives as defined by him
 - Not the exact rules of those times, but what is appropriate for our time
 - Being just like the rest of the world, but with a free ticket to heaven and then living however we want isn't enough
 - God expects more and we get a vision of this in these books

Challenges to these ideas

- Not fun In a world where fun is seen as the highest value
- To read these books to learn God's expectations is hard to get through.... reading about infectious and "spreading mildew" diseases isn't easy.
- But just because something is hard doesn't mean we should avoid it.
- It does strengthen us spiritually.

- We have TWO tools to help!

Tool # ONE: Historical context—which we will be talking about—for example:

- Many of the laws on sexual purity, the bigger picture is that God wanted to totally separate HIS worship from the pagan worship that usually involved sexual rites
- “Eye for an eye” actually a very moderating and just law for the time. In other law codes of the time vengeance was much harsher and applied differently to different classes of people
- Hammurabi’s Code illustrates this point: "If a man has destroyed the eye of a man of the gentleman class, they shall destroy his eye If he has destroyed the eye of a commoner ... he shall pay one mina of silver. If he has destroyed the eye of a gentleman's slave ... he shall pay half the slave's price." The Babylonians clearly did not live under a social system that treated all people equally. <http://www.ushistory.org/civ/4c.asp>
- We’ll talk about these more in our overviews of the books as we go through them

Tool #TWO: Hermeneutical tool of TYPOLOGY

- First, what is a “hermeneutic tool”?
- Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpreting the Bible
- I’ll discuss various hermeneutical tools as we go through the Bible—a alternate method than just teaching the topic on its own
- In the coming weeks we’ll talk about how to correctly read and understand historical narratives, e.g. you can’t take them as examples of what to do—lots of evil reported
- This lesson will be about Typology

Definition of Typology

- Typology is based on the assumption that there is a pattern in God’s work throughout salvation history. God prefigured his redemptive work in the Old Testament and fulfilled it in the New; in the Old Testament are shadows of things to be more fully revealed in the New. The ceremonial laws of the Old Testament, for example, demonstrated to Old Testament believers the necessity of atonement for their sins; these ceremonies pointed forward to the perfect atonement to be made in Christ. The prefigurement is called the *type*; the corresponding figure is called the *antitype*.
- Henry A. Virkler, *Hermeneutics*
- Confusing (non-biblical) definition of *antitype*: “a person or thing that represents the opposite of someone or something else.”
- Helps to know—Greek definition, totally different:

antitupos “corresponding as an impression to the die.”

Expanded definition

- A type is a shadow cast on the pages of OT history by a truth whose full embodiment or antitype is found in NT revelation:
 - Example: John 3:14-15 *As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*
 - Jesus points out two corresponding resemblances: 1) the lifting up of the serpent and of himself, and 2) life for those who respond to the object lifted up.
- Henry A. Virkler, *Hermeneutics*

More about Types

- Thoroughly rooted in history-in both type and antitype
- They [types] are prophetic in nature, most often having to do with Christ
- They are definitely designed as an integral part of redemptive history....not afterthoughts read back into the OT story.
- They may be only partially fulfilled, and more fulfillment is coming
 - From *Baker’s Dictionary of Theology*

Specific example of how typology relates to the passages we are reading now

- The Jewish Tabernacle is commonly seen as a series of types of Jesus Christ. In other words, images that he will later specifically fulfill
- Jesus describes himself as "the door" and the only "way" to God, there was only one way to get into the Tabernacle court
- The sacrificial lambs—most significant representative
- When John sees Jesus coming to be baptized, he says, “Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world”
- If you don’t read the story of the Lamb, you have no idea what he is talking about
- But if you spent your whole life seeing innocent lambs sacrificed again and again or if you read it and it comes alive to you in that reading, when you hear John say those words the power of their meaning will come alive to you
- Look ahead to Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Rev.5:12
- You’ll read about the veil that blocked the Holy of Holies from everyone but the High Priest once a year
- Veil torn after Jesus died. Matt. 27:51
- And so much more....

A TYPE is not an ANALOGY

- Analogies are things that are similar in some way
- An analogy is not a bad thing—just don't confuse it with a type—that is tied to history both in the type and the antitype—e.g. sacrifices of the lamb and then Jesus as the Lamb of God Analogies can be made in many ways and are often culturally determined. Spurgeon used them extensively,
- To use a Charles Spurgeon analogy: Put on one side of a room a fine meal from the best chef in England, and on the other side, a pig trough, filled with pig slop. If you released a pig in that room, every single time he would go to the pig trough.
- Why? Because he's a pig. It's what pigs do.
- Now, if the pig was supernaturally transformed into a human being, he would not want to eat from the pig trough any more, he can't even take pig food without vomiting, and so he'd go to the meal made by the chef. Why? Because he's a human now. He's not a pig anymore.
- Now if you are truly converted, and heading for Heaven, then that analogy has just described your conversion. When God, supernaturally changed your will and desires [regeneration] from a sin loving and righteous-hating pig, to a sin hating and righteous loving human.
- Every once in a while, the Christian may forget that he's no longer a pig, and go to eat from the pig trough. But as soon as he does, he'll want to vomit, and if anyone sees him eating from the pig trough, he's ashamed. Why? Because he's not a pig anymore. Humans do not eat from pig troughs.
- Now to develop the analogy further: If someone claims they are a Christian, but they have not much appetite for righteousness, but would rather openly walk in sin. They have not much interest in going to the fine meal, but would rather eat from the pig trough, then it's evident they're probably still a pig, as the evidence is showing their will and desires have not been changed by God, but rather that they are unregenerate and unconverted. As Jesus said "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:19-20 ESV)

Analogies can be powerful teaching tools

- Jesus used them frequently "the kingdom of heaven is like"
- Analogies/Applications in Bible teaching valid analogies
- But analogies are not TYPES

Expansion of the importance of Types

- This comes from:
https://www.equip.org/bible_answers/what-is-the-significance-of-biblical-typology/
good article, read it all for a better understanding of typology
- . . . biblical typology, as evidenced in the writings of the New Testament, always involves a heightening of the type in the antitype.
- It is not simply that Jesus replaces the temple as a new but otherwise equal substitute. No, Jesus is far greater than the temple! It is not as though Jesus is simply another in the line of prophets with Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. No, Jesus is much greater than the ^[OB]prophets!
- It is not as though the new covenant replaces the old covenant as a more modern but equivalent alternative. No, the new covenant is far greater than the old covenant— "a better covenant" (Heb. 7:22)—rendering the old "obsolete" (8:13). The type, thus, is so heightened, escalated, or intensified in the antitype that by contrast it loses its own weight and significance. (my comment—why we are no longer under the Law, a greater fulfillment has come)

Future Purpose of Types

- Article continues:
- Finally, it is important to point out that antitypes themselves may also function as types of future realities. Communion, for example, is the antitype (future fulfillment) of the Passover meal. Each year the Jews celebrated Passover in remembrance of God's sparing the firstborn sons in the homes of the Israelite families that were marked by the blood of the Passover lamb (see Luke 22; cf. Exodus 11-12).
- Jesus' celebration of the Passover meal with his disciples on the night of his arrest symbolically points to the fact that he is the ultimate Passover Lamb "who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).
- Though the Last Supper and the corresponding sacrament of communion serve as the antitype of the Passover meal, they also point forward to their ultimate fulfillment in "the wedding supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9; cf. Luke 22:15-18). On that glorious day the purified bride—true Israel—will be united with her Bridegroom in the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1-2).
- https://www.equip.org/bible_answers/what-is-the-significance-of-biblical-typology/

Application for us

- God has a purpose in including these books in our Bible – not odd, outdated laws and events for no reason
- Practical purposes at the time, but many are also TYPES that point to future realities
- To understand all the Bible better, we need to read all of it
- Don't get bogged down on the details—you won't understand them all, especially the first time you read them
- Use a study Bible, listen to these lessons AND
- Once again, pull back to the view of God outside history giving us these evidences that He is the author of our Salvation
- From first to last and forever—
- How good it will be to see the future fulfillment of things we only understand dimly now
- As the reality of Jesus coming to earth so much greater than the Lamb sacrificed, imagine how great our joy will be when we see Him face to face!