



*Empower Ministries Presents*

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# Bible Study BREAKTHROUGH

The easiest way to bridge the gap  
from Bible times to today

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Bible Study  
**BREAKTHROUGH**  
The Course



ATTITUDE  
PREPARE for Study  
ANALYZE the Text  
EXPLORE What You Find  
**EXPLAIN What You Discover**  
APPLY its Lessons to Life

*SHARE THE GOODS WITH OTHERS*

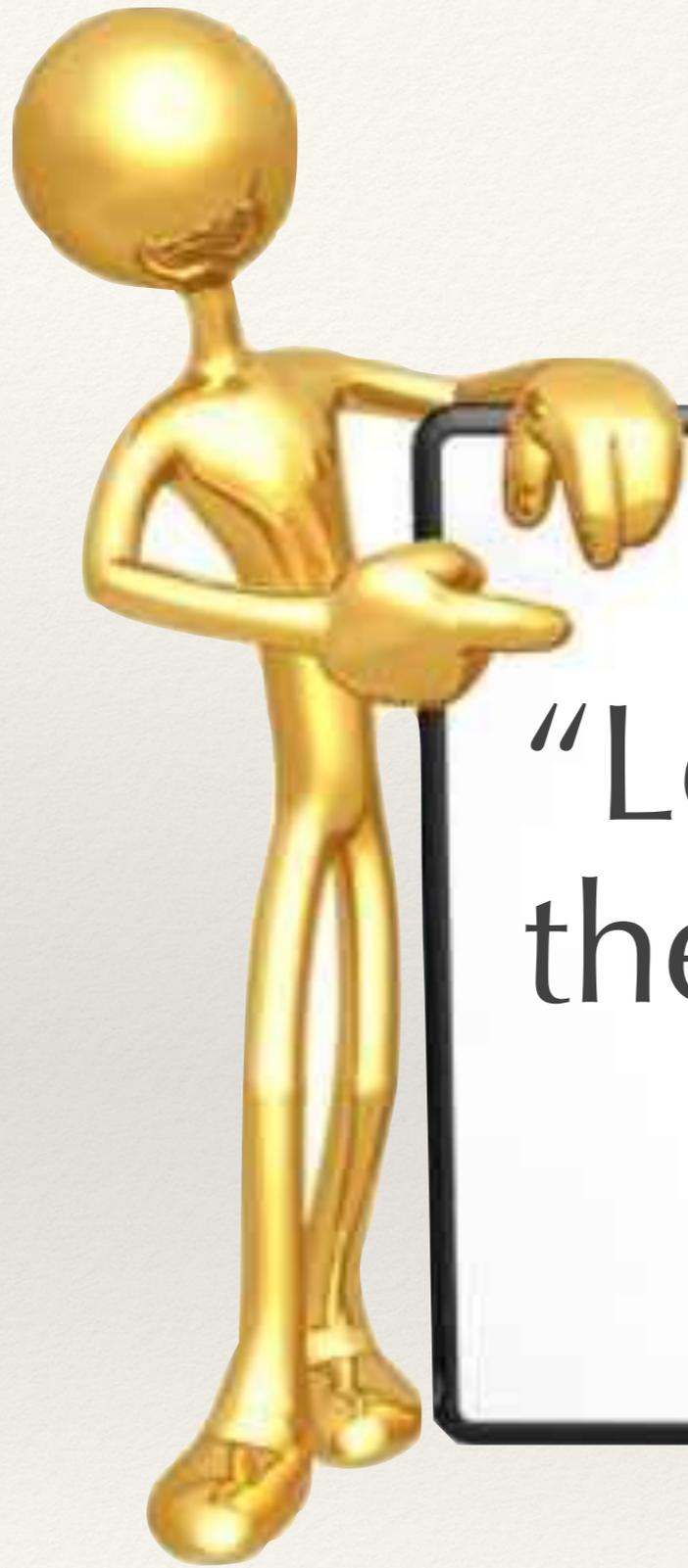
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## Explain Discoveries

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- Write out brief versions of each verse based on what you've learned so far
- **Submit your study to the LORD**
  - Use a concordance to search for verses that share the same subjects, actions, or experiences with verses in your passage
  - Compare them with verses in your passage
  - **Let Christ explain the Bigger Picture**
  - Write out revised versions of each one based on what you learn





“Let Christ Explain  
the Bigger Picture,  
Part 1”

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# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

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**Although God had supernatural things to show Israel, He used natural ones to reveal these mysteries.**

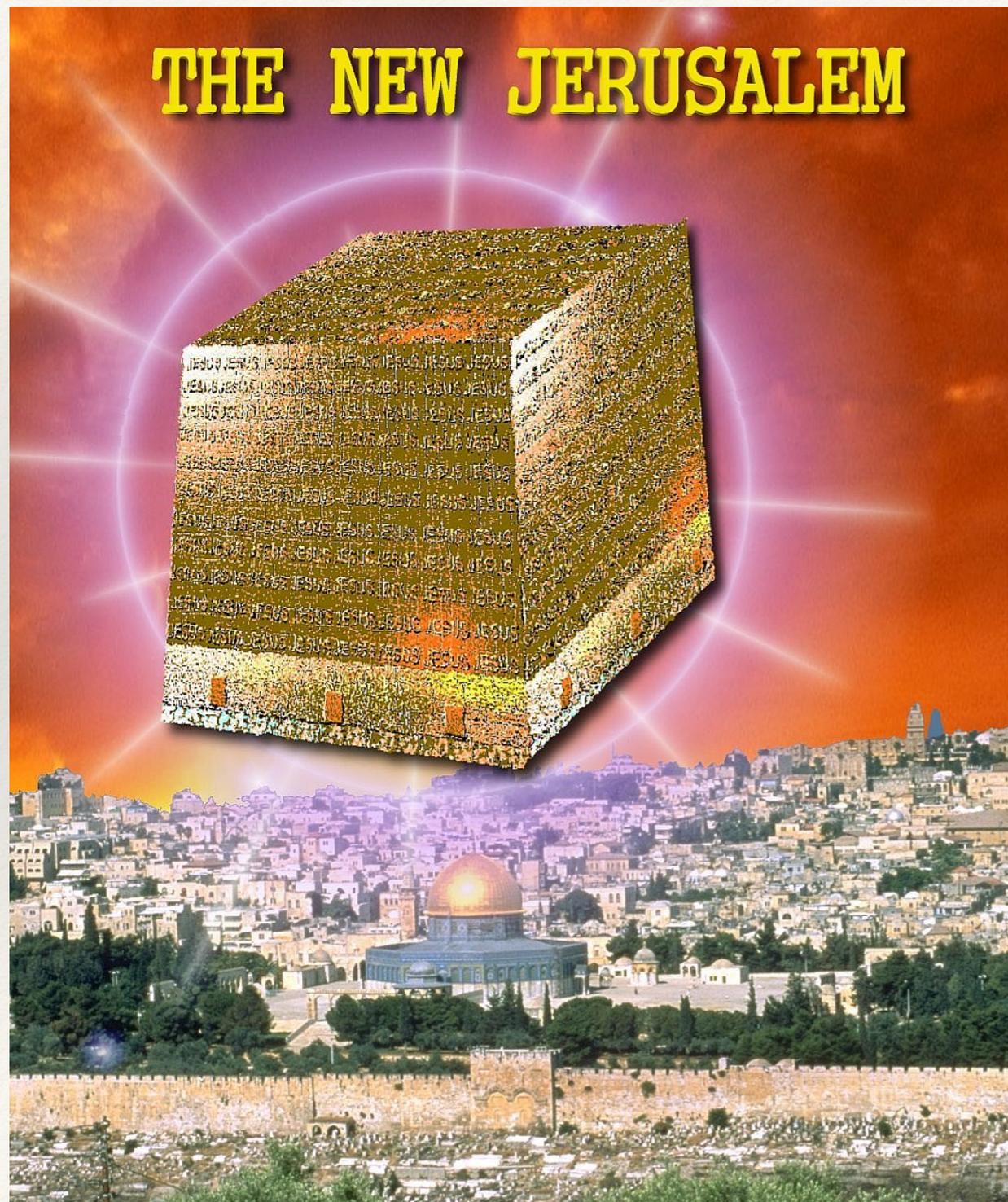
- Since He made heaven and earth, the processes of nature closely resemble those of the Spirit.

What's more, He did not present them all at once or in their most advanced form right away. Instead, He chose to progressively reveal supernatural realities with symbols: people, events, and institutions that the Israelites could see.

- He worked from elementary to more advanced levels as history unfolded so that His people would gradually grasp more and more of what these spiritual matters represented.



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture



**Because revelation is both progressive and cumulative, not only does it build to a climax, but it also adds up.**

Revelatory light gains intensity with the passing of time. Later texts offer brighter beams of insight because they focus rays of light accumulated to that time. Historically closer to the time when the supernatural realities will stand for themselves, later texts offer more advanced presentations, which bear closer resemblance to their higher realities than earlier ones.

They thus help clarify as well as identify who or what is represented.

Heavenly

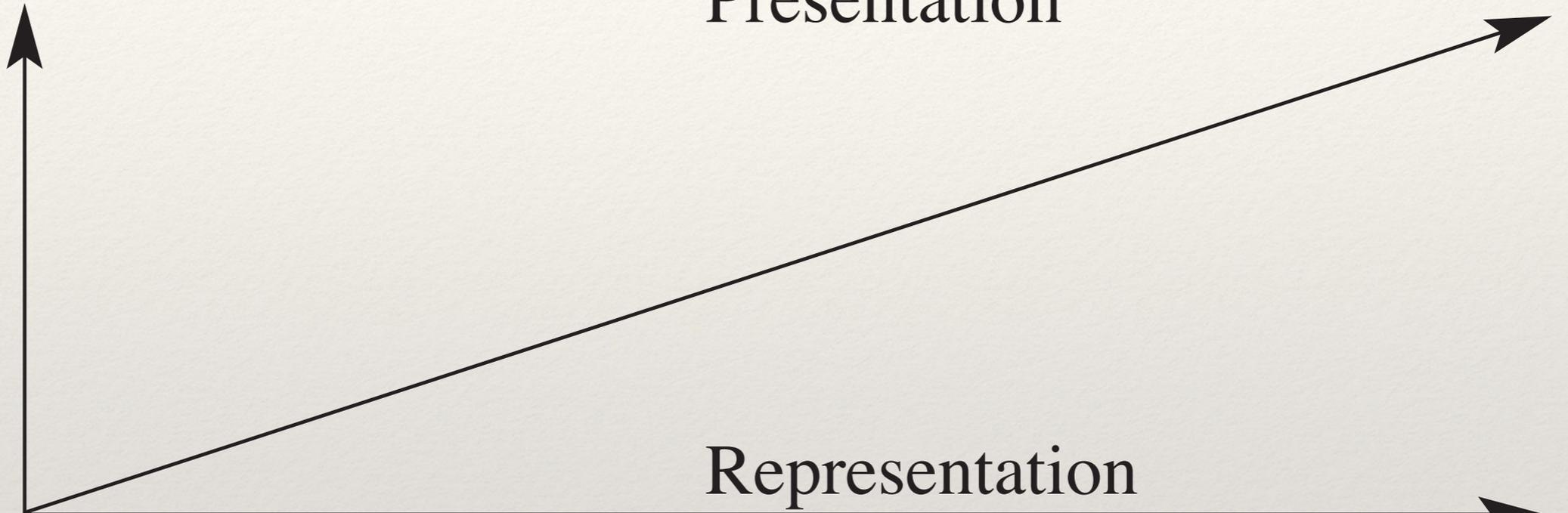
Presentation

Earthly

Representation

Basic OT

Advanced NT

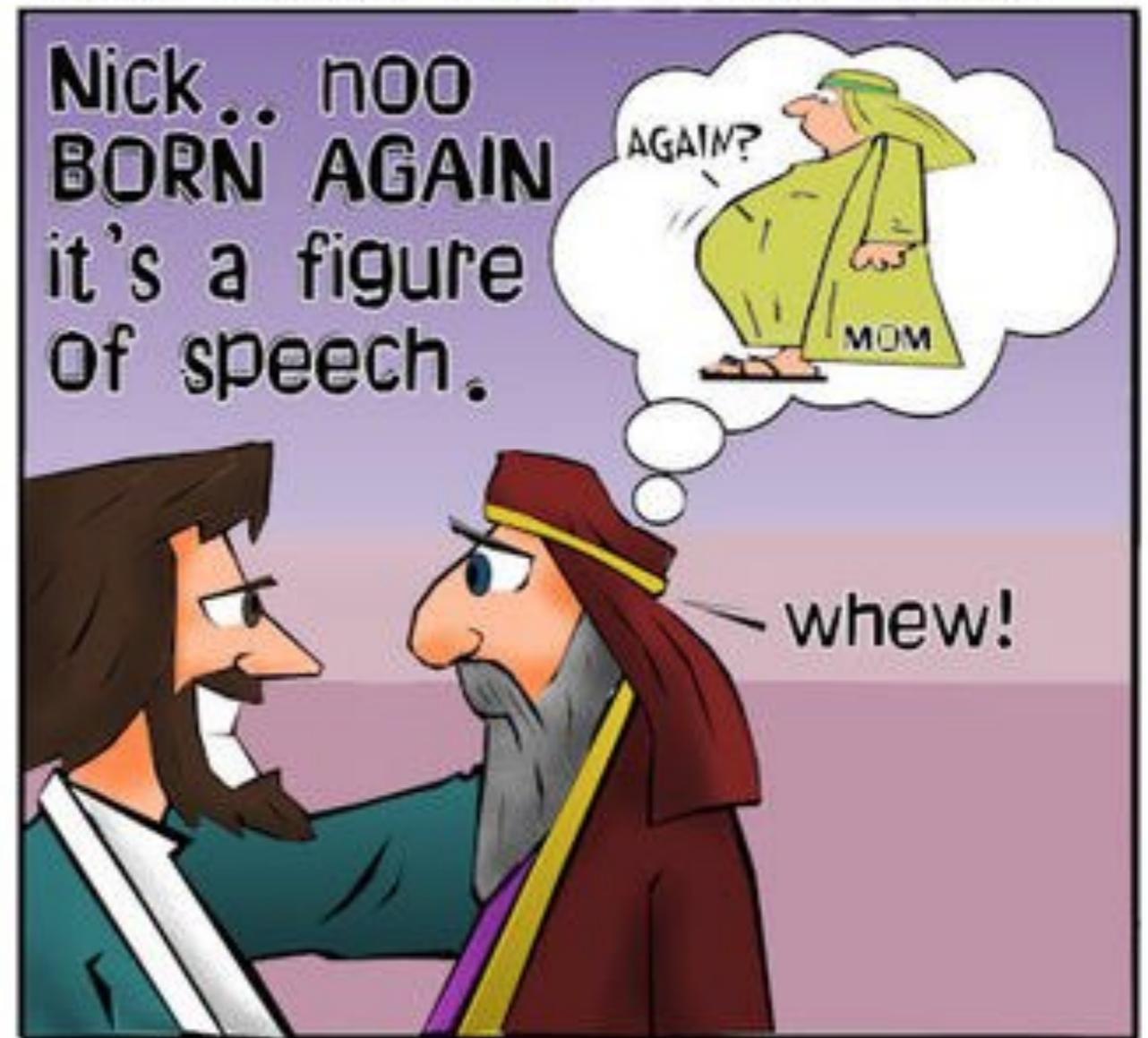


# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

From early times it appears that Israel had trouble looking past these visible things to the much higher realities they represented, which limited their understanding of God, righteousness, and the kingdom to what they could see.

Even the early prophets—from the great prophetic revival under Samuel to the first writing prophets of the middle eighth century B.C.—did not fathom much more.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

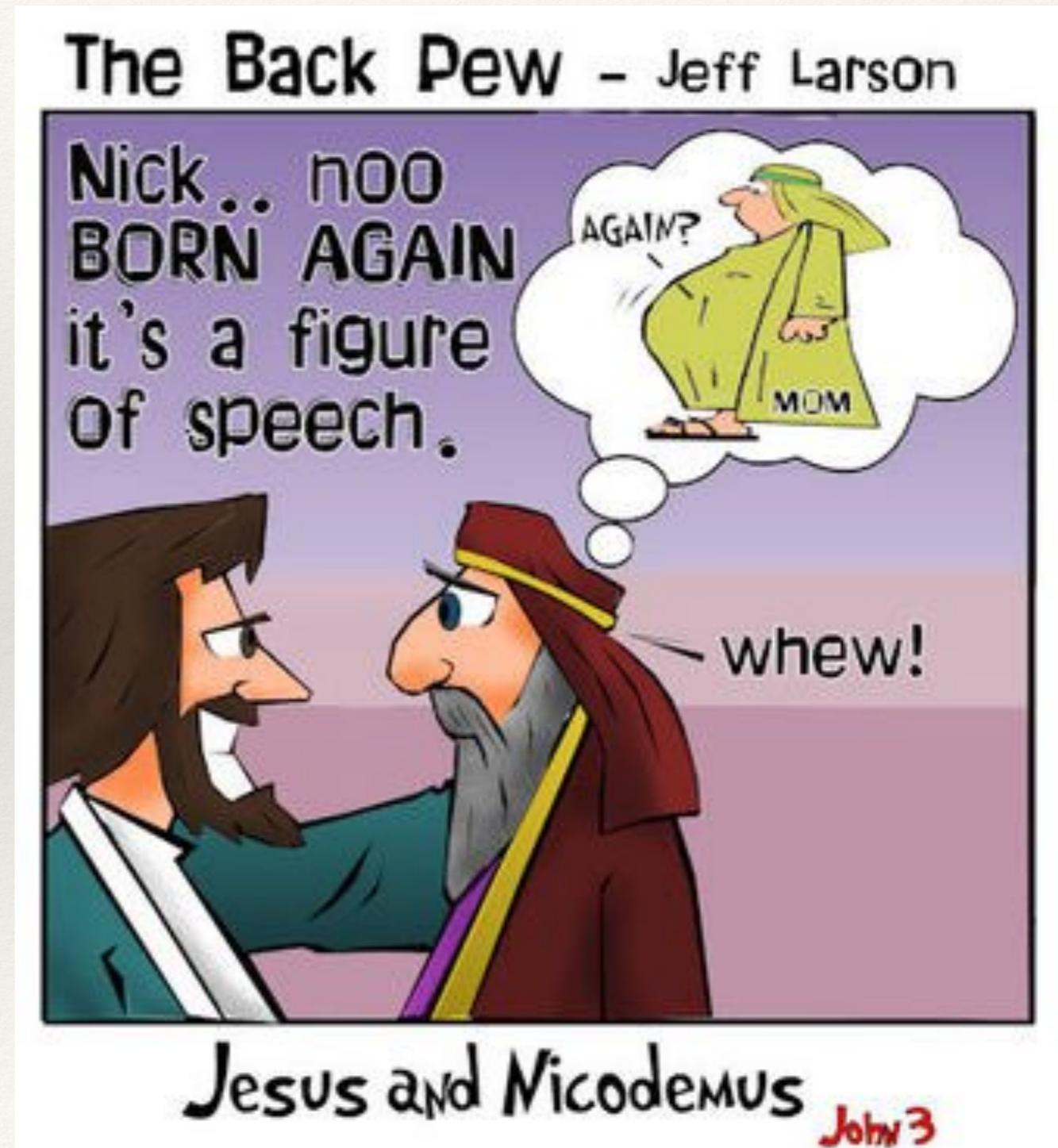


Jesus and Nicodemus *John 3*

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

Each had a word for his own day and generation, preaching so that the nation would repent and return to God.

During the reign of Solomon, unable to imagine anything better than the literal fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham, they saw themselves as reorganizers sent by God to restore Israel to its former glory.



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

## REGENERATION



To make over, to generate again, to reproduce; renewal, recreation, to be born again.

But later prophets saw past these restrictions. As God continued to unfold His everlasting covenant, His spokespersons continued to call for repentance, but the emphasis shifted from repair to regeneration as the remedy for Israel's problems.

Israel had latched onto the symbols as though they were the higher realities themselves.

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

## REGENERATION



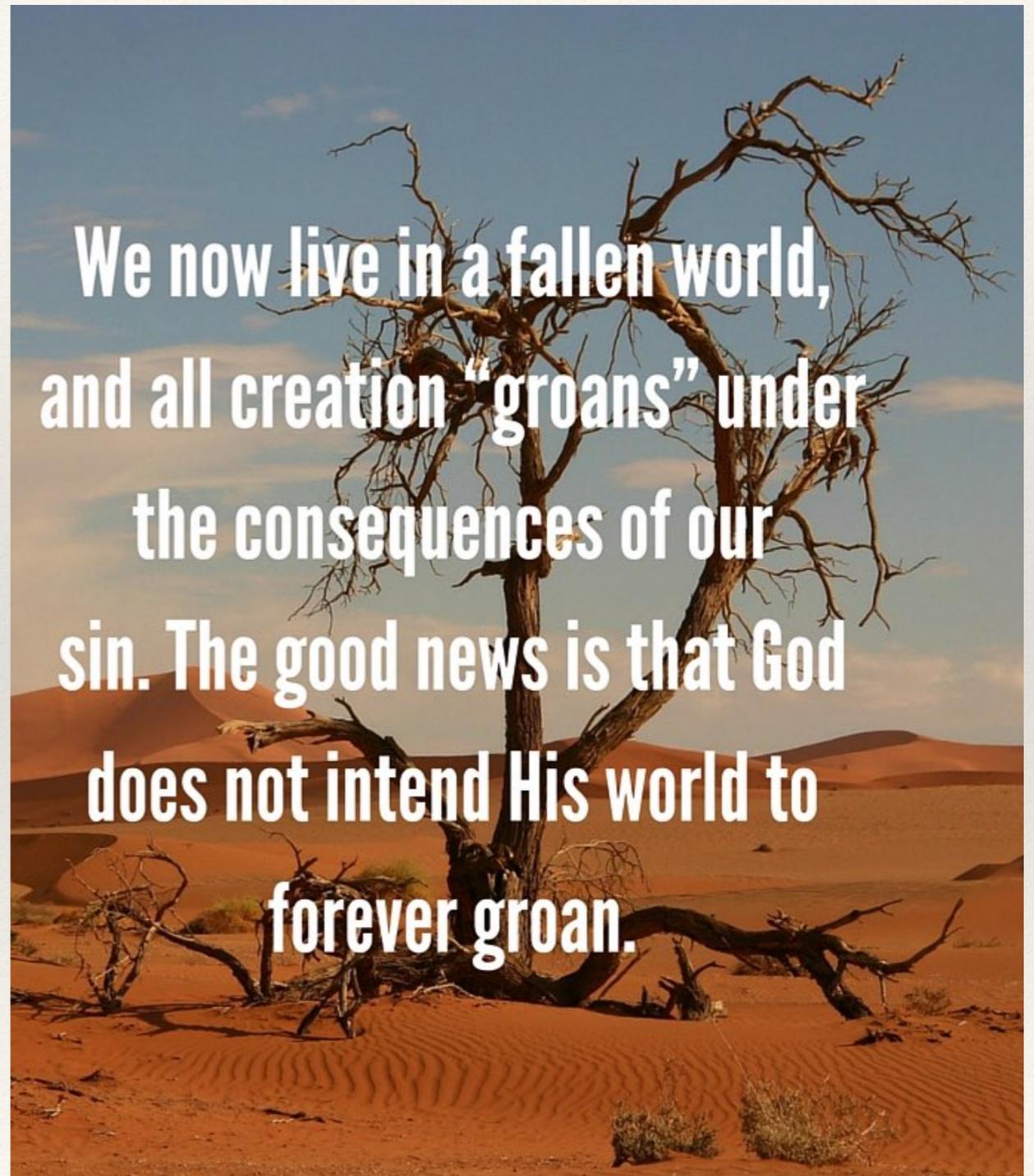
**To make over, to generate again, to reproduce; renewal, recreation, to be born again.**

She cherished the good times associated with the symbolic past (Luke 5:39 [NKJV]—"The old is better") and kept looking back, hoping that God would reinstate the old glory days sometime in the future. But instead of showing the prophets a revival of the best from the past, God gave them a glimpse of a future new creation that far surpassed Israel's limited expectations—"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard" (Isa. 64:4).

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

**Although these symbols—the best from the past—were merely shadows of things to come, the glorious future they represented was not something entirely new, because the symbols had been pointing to this glorious future all the time.**

The future is simply a continuation of God's original covenant plan—the final edition of what He intended and established from the beginning. While most Israelites pined for the symbolic past, wondering how to link the ancient promises with their seemingly hopeless present, the prophets reached into the future for the higher realities represented by the symbols in the first place.



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

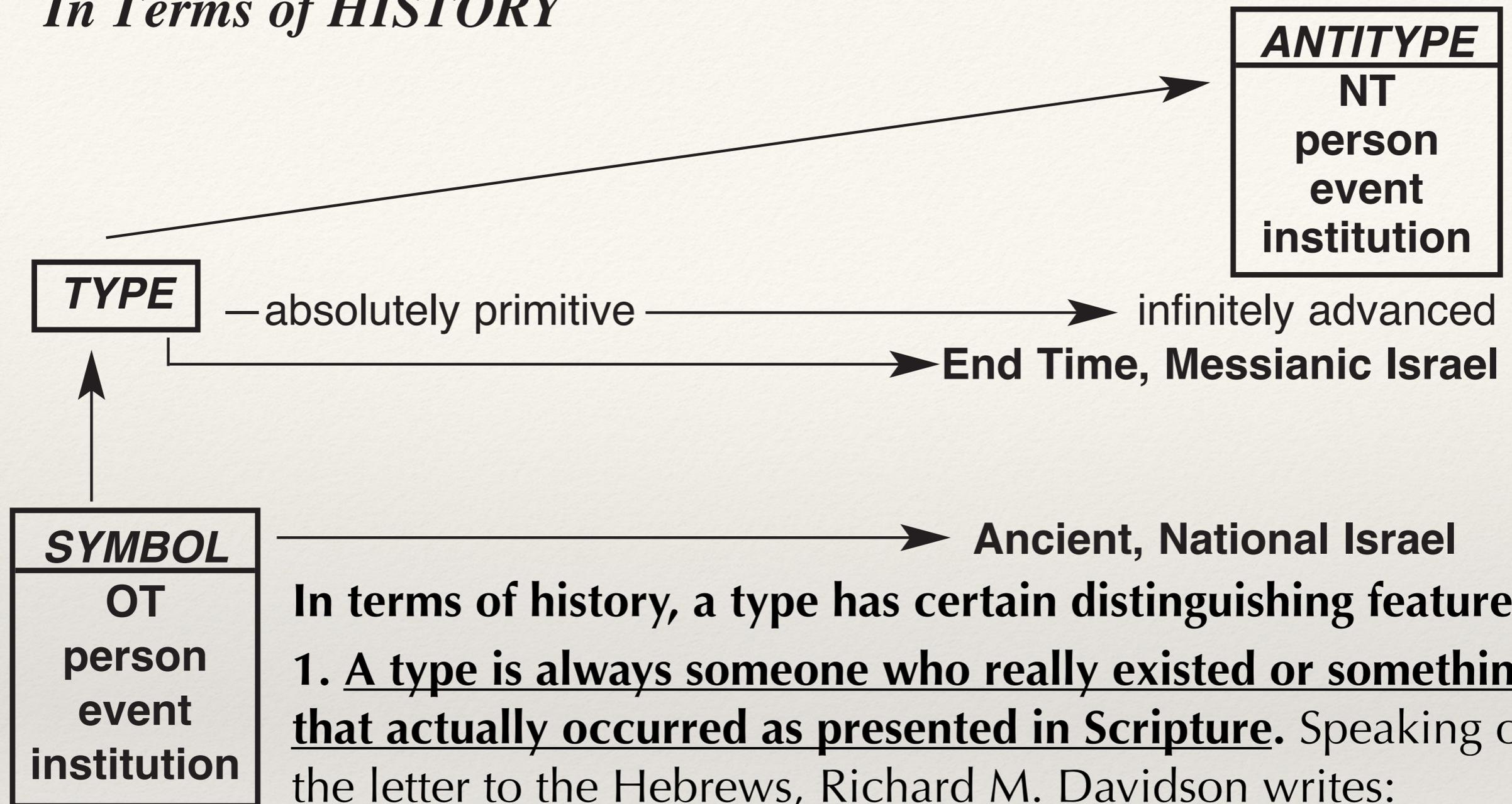


## The Typology Model

When a symbol that used to represent a spiritual truth to ancient, national Israel also prefigures this same truth for end-time Messianic Israel (sometimes called spiritual Israel), it is called **a type**.

Although a symbol pictured redemption in its own day and a type looks forward to the future, the things symbolized and typified are not different sets of things. They are the same with this one difference—the symbolical came first (at an earlier, preliminary stage of development in the work of redemption), and the typical came at a later, more advanced one.

## *In Terms of HISTORY*



**In terms of history, a type has certain distinguishing features:**  
**1. A type is always someone who really existed or something that actually occurred as presented in Scripture.** Speaking of the letter to the Hebrews, Richard M. Davidson writes:

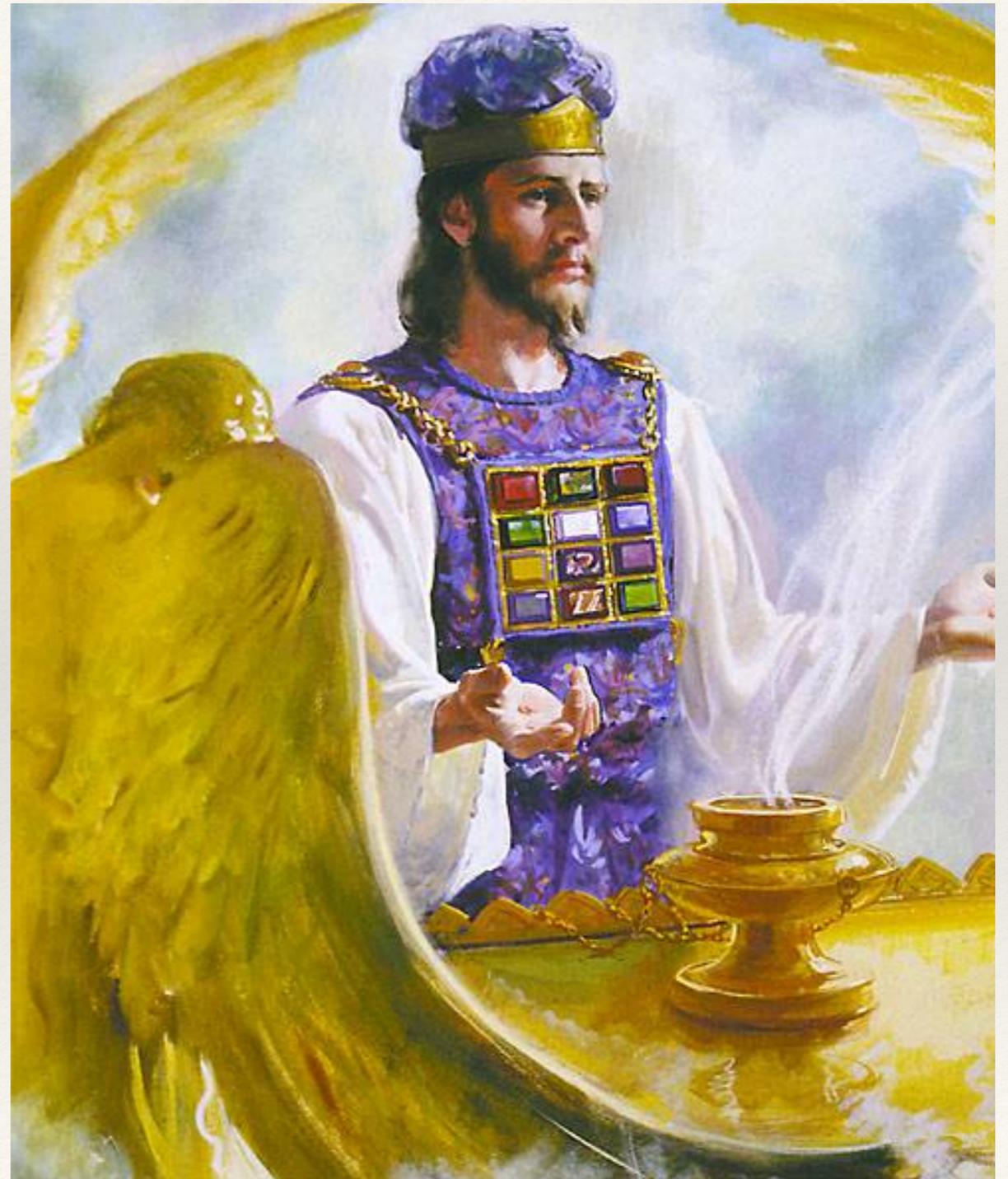
“The author takes for granted the historical reality of the OT persons, events, and institutions mentioned in the epistle. . . . ‘His . . . concern throughout the sermon is to ground Christian confidence in objective *facts*. . . . *Real* deity, *real* humanity, *real* priesthood—and we may add, a *real* ministry in a real sanctuary’” (*Typology in Scripture*, p. 346)

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

2. A type always corresponds to its New Testament reality or realities in terms of people (see Rom. 5), events (see 1 Cor. 10; 1 Peter 3), or institutions (see Heb. 8 and 9).

And this correspondence is also in terms of the crucial details determined by the type and by the fact that were already redemptively significant in the Old Testament as either a contrast (see Rom. 5) or a comparison (see 1 Cor. 10; 1 Peter 3).

For example, the main line of correspondence in Hebrews 8 is between the old and new covenants and in Hebrews 9 between the temporary Levitical offerings and the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ.

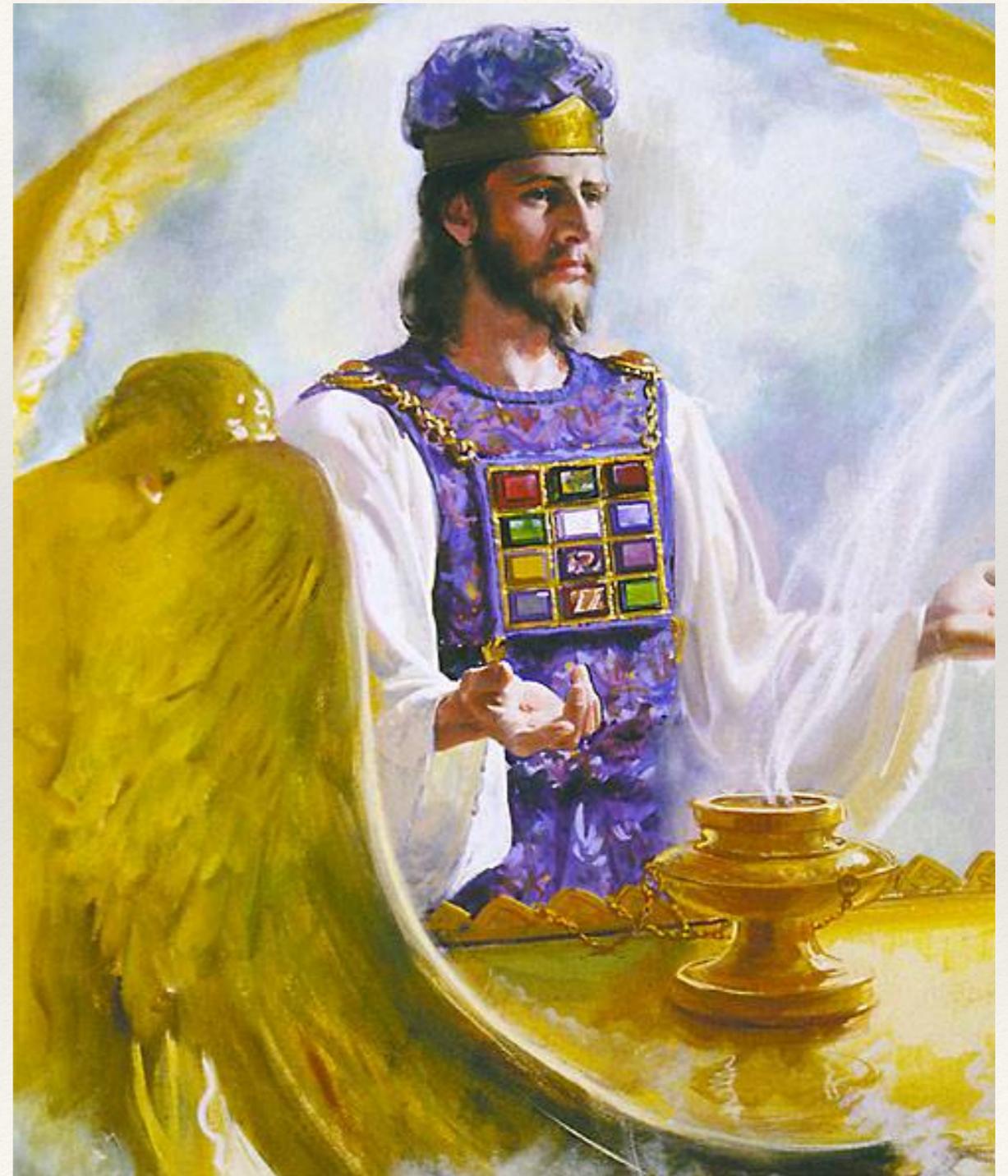


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# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

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Both chapters continue to match the Levitical priesthood with Christ's Melchizedek-like high priesthood down to crucial details: just as earthly priests had something to offer, so must Jesus have an offering (see Heb. 8:3), and just as the carcasses of sacrificial animals whose blood was brought into the sanctuary were burned "outside the camp," so Jesus "suffered outside the . . . gate" (13:11-13).



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture



3. **A type** (the primitive Old Testament reality) **is always a shadow of the absolutely superior and more advanced New Testament reality—its climactic, end-time edition.**

Consider, for example, the Captain of the Lord's host who visited with Joshua. It is all right to recognize the supernatural military leader as the pre-incarnate Jesus, but it is inappropriate to plug the flesh-and-blood Son of God into His place and force the passage to say things that God chose to reveal about Himself and His Son at a later date and further along the redemptive-revelatory road.

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture



The Captain and the Savior are one and the same, but the Savior's task is on a more advanced level than that of the Captain.

- As Captain of the Lord's host, the pre-incarnate Christ came to assure Joshua of victory and success in the city-by-city campaign to win the Promised Land from its natural occupants. Joshua needed to know that he would not be alone at the head of his Hebrew army.
- As Savior of the world, Christ comes to assure us of victory and success in our stronghold-by-stronghold campaign to win the entire planet from its evil supernatural occupants, because He stands at the head of God's army.

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

The type is the first edition of the final truth and is itself a prophecy of the anti-type, its much greater, fulfilled final edition.

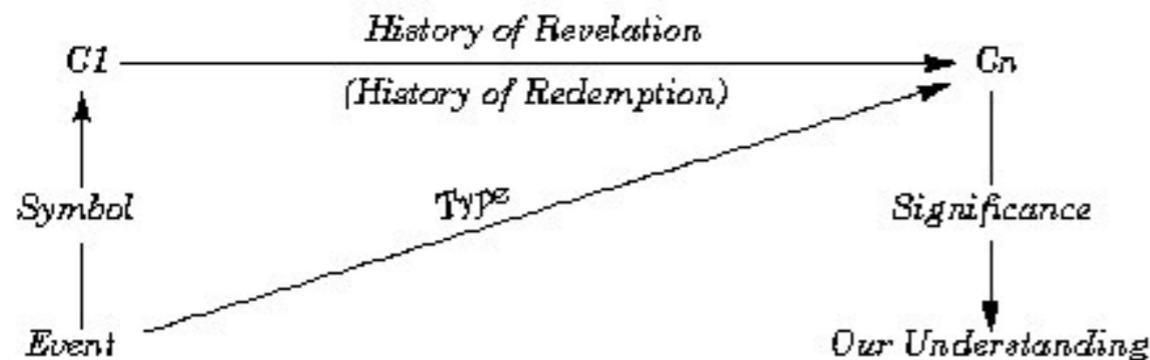
- Thus the types allowed the prophets to reach for the fulfilled, ultimate realities, while still living in the symbolical shadows themselves. Their writings upgraded the ancient hopes and challenged the community of faith to reassess its views of God and His Word in the light of recent redemptive developments.
- They did this by reapplying the Word from the past to their current situation so as to bring Israel's view of the past, present, and future of God's promises up-to-date with the progress of redemption.



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

## Relating the two Testaments

- “The writers of the New Testament look back upon the Old Testament as **foreshadowing**, indeed prophesying, their own day. God was preparing the world for a full and final revelation of himself and his Son, Jesus Christ, in **types and shadows** that he used in earlier times.” —*Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*



Typology operates on the solid connection rather than any impressive correspondence between the Old and New Testaments.

- The Old Testament prepares us for the New. Its promises are fulfilled in the New.
- Revelation and redemption both move progressively from primitive beginnings in the Old to a much higher plane in the New.

*In PROPHEPIC Terms*

**ANTITYPE**

the fulfilled  
NT reality  
anticipated  
and  
foreshadowed  
in its *TYPE*

*Divinely Designed  
Preordained Connection*

**TYPE**

the primitive  
advanced-presentation  
of its *ANTITYPE*  
expecting and  
promising a much  
higher NT reality  
that must come

In terms of prophecy, a type has certain distinguishing features:

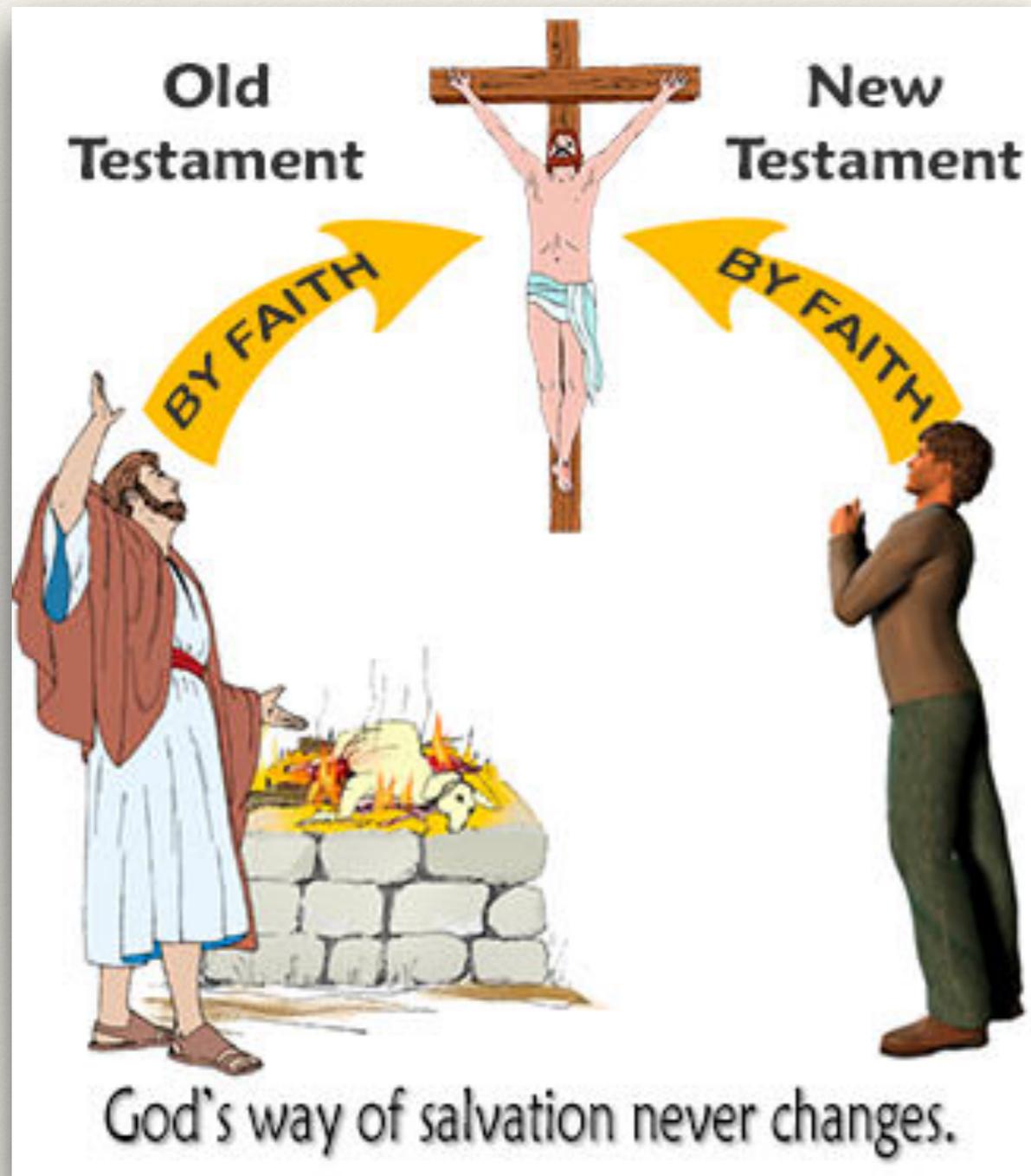
1. A type is an advance presentation or preview of its actual corresponding NT reality or realities.

# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

2. It is no coincidence that a type does this. God designed it that way. As the Lord of history He supervised people, events, and institutions so that they could actually present their corresponding New Testament realities in advance to teach Israel these last-day truths in an elementary way during the early stages of redemption without neutralizing human freedom or belittling their redemptive significance at the time.



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture



3. More than any impressive correspondence, there is an inescapable connection between the type and its New Testament reality, which allows it to foreshadow, promise in advance, and look forward to something or someone greater to come. As the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of the New Testament writers, heavenly light illuminated the dimly understood truths of the sanctuary rituals, and the early Christians detected an amazing connection between God's Old Testament redemptive acts and the salvation that they witnessed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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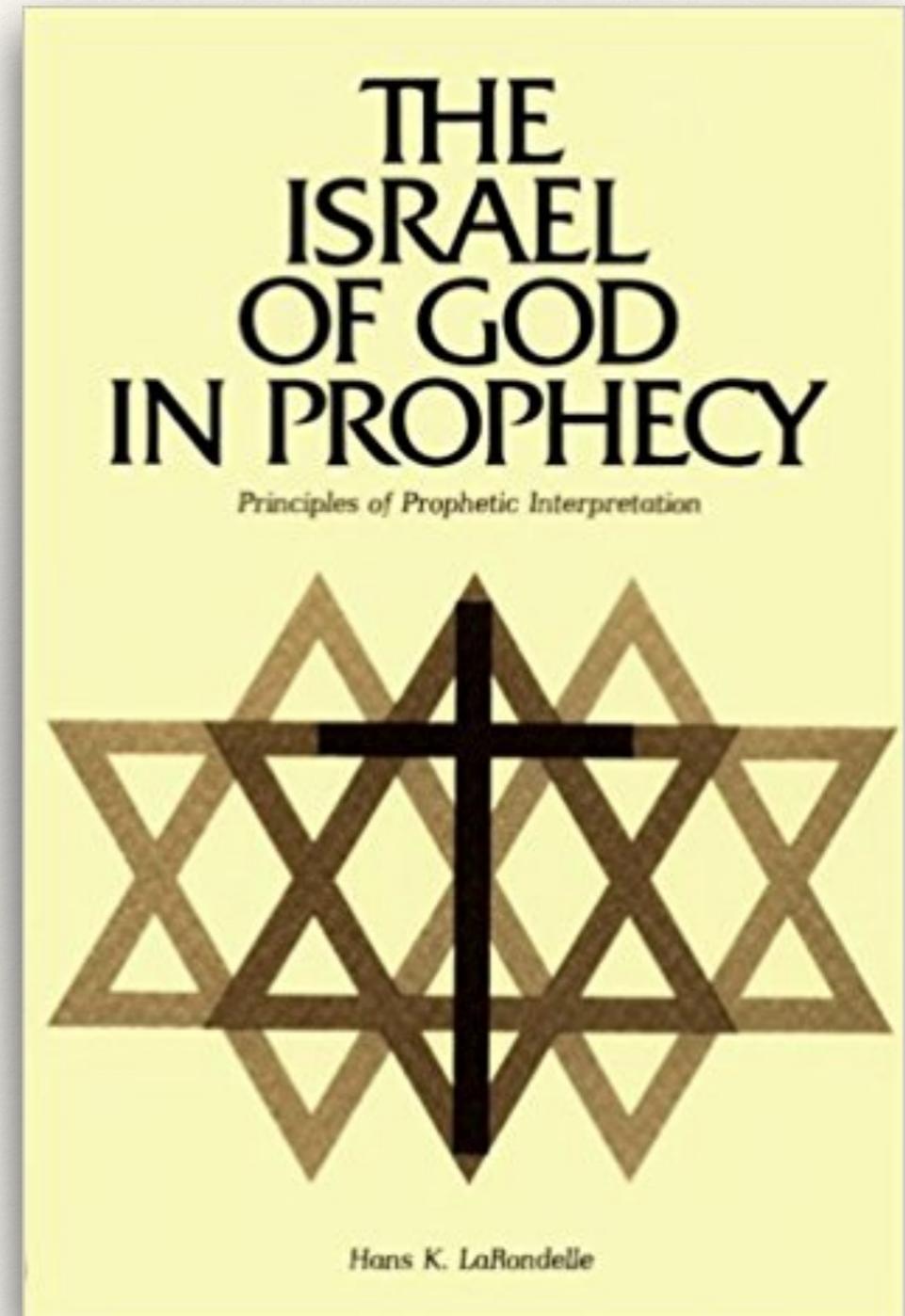
# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

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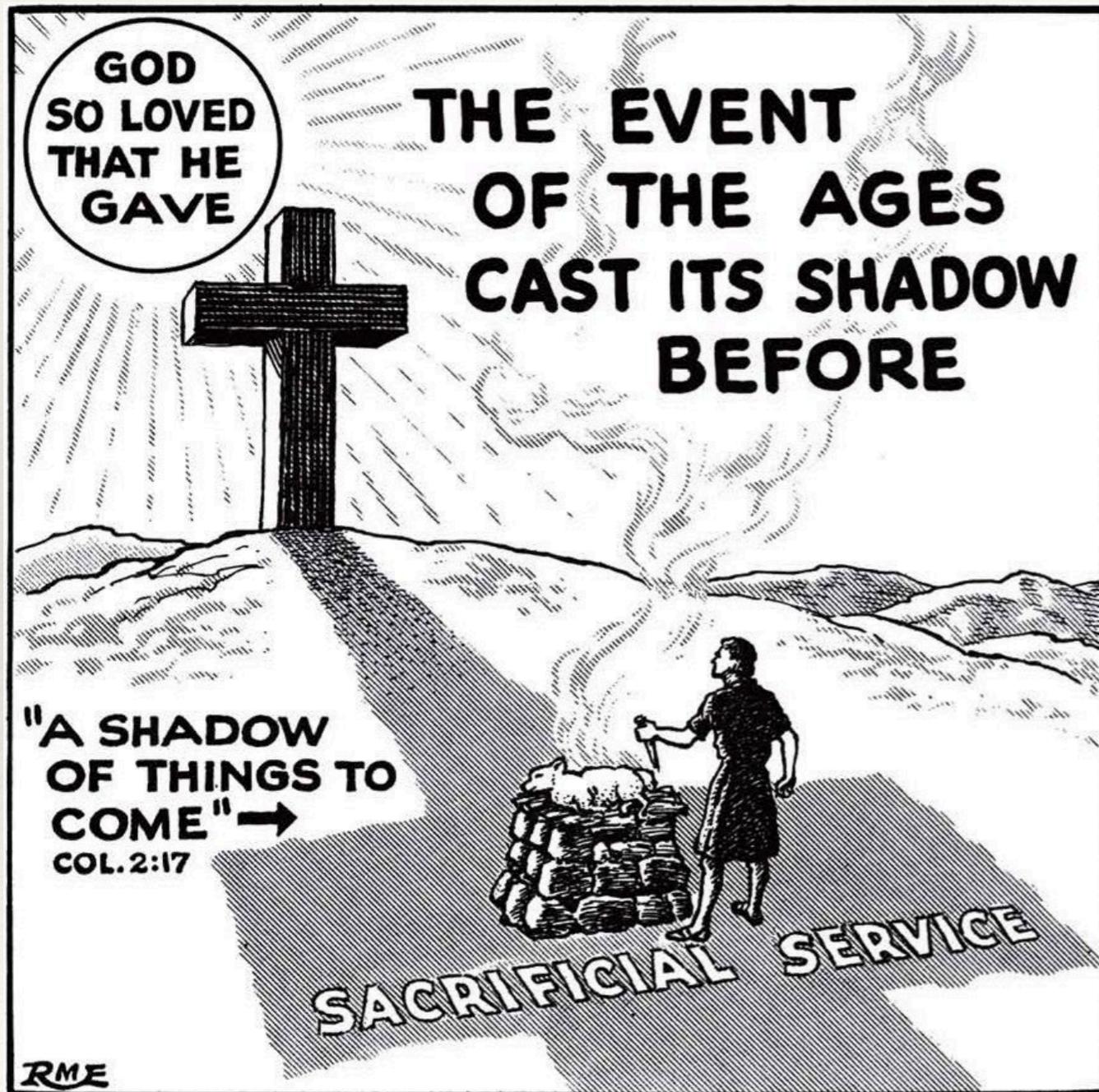
So LaRondelle rightly observes:

“In other words, an Old Testament institution, event, or person only becomes a clear and understandable type in the light of Christ and His covenant people as the antitype. . . .

It is the authority of the New Testament which establishes the divinely *pre-ordained* connection between a type and antitype and discloses the *predictive* nature of the type” (*The Israel of God in Prophecy*, p. 37).



# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture



For example, the sanctuary service, priesthood, and sacrifices gave themselves away as inadequate and temporary.

- These symbols actually revealed the need for the superior realities of Christ and His ministry, while at the same time they provided a shadowy presentation of them in advance.
- That is how the author of Hebrews argued from the Old Testament offerings to the necessity of Christ's sacrifice (Heb. 8:3, 4).

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# Let Christ Explain the Bigger Picture

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In fact, God arranged for the sacrificial law of the old covenant to function as “a shadow of good things to come” (Heb. 10:1).

“The old covenant was *ordained by God* (9:1), served its temporary function (9:10), but pointed forward as a shadow (10:1) to the realities of the New Covenant to be effected by Jesus” (Davidson, *Typology in Scripture*, p. 352).

