**PREFIGURING OF JESUS (#1)**

***Jesus & Adam***

I’ve been studying the life of Jesus. One area that has intrigued me so much is how our Lord was prefigured by very prominent men in the Old Testament. Don’t let the word *prefigure* turn you off. Just break it down. *Pre* means before. *Figure* implies an image of something or someone. Combine the thoughts and you have the idea of something or someone coming before something or someone else. In our study it means some who lived in the Old Testament era became figures like Jesus Christ. There was something in their character that was like a shadow of Jesus’ character.

Let me show you where I’m going with this. The New Testament describes how men like ***Adam, Moses, Joshua, David*** and ***Melchizedek*** foreshadowed or prefigured the life of Christ. This is not something we have to speculate about because inspired apostles and prophets specifically told us that these men’s lives had similarities that would reveal the Messiah (i.e. Christ) when He came. To watch Jesus live His life, preach His sermons, work His miracles, write His covenant, and become a prophet, priest and king should have forever convinced Jews living in the first century that Jesus was the Messiah. It’s a fascinating study to me, and I hope it will be to you as well.

Jesus and Adam.

Until I dug into this connection I had not realized how much was said in the New Testament about the intersection of these two men’s lives. To show you what I mean I will simply quote three passages, then give my commentary.

**Romans 5:14-16, 18-19***Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.*

*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

**1 Corinthians 15:21-23***For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming,*

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49***So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.*

Comments:

Both Adam and Jesus had a miraculous beginning. One was created from dust (Gen. 2:7), the other was through a virgin birth (Lk. 1:26-35).

Both Adam and Jesus were perfect, innocent and holy. Adam remained in perfect fellowship with God while in the Garden of Eden, but then sinned and through it “*died*” spiritually, and eventually also died physically (Gen. 3:3. Jesus never sinned but remained in perfect fellowship with God His entire life (Heb. 4:15).

Both Adam and Jesus were the head of their race. Adam was head of the human race, becoming the physical father of all mankind. Jesus was the head of the redeemed race, becoming the spiritual Father of all the saved.

Both Adam and Jesus were givers of life. Adam gave physical life to all of men (Ac. 17:26 “*He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth*”). Jesus gave spiritual life to all who would believe in Him (Jn. 1:1-14).

Both Adam and Jesus went through a great testing. Adam failed his test by sinning (Gen. 3:1-7). Jesus passed His test by relying upon God’s Word (Lk. 4:1-8). Jesus was “obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8).

Both Adam and Jesus died in the flesh. Adam, the first human, lived for about a millennium (930 years to be exact – Gen. 5:5). Jesus lived about a third of a century (33 years – Lk. 3:23). Adam’s body is still in the grave. Jesus’ body was raised from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of all who die (I Cor. 15:23).

I don’t have to tell you which one had the greater impact on the world. Adam brought a curse that causes the earth to groan in pain to this very day (Rom. 8:22). Jesus brought a blessing that permits men to enjoy the abundant life, both now and for eternity (Jn. 10:10; I Tim. 4:8).

And now for the finale. Hear it again: “*Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.”* I look like Adam in that I have a human body, along with a spiritual soul that can connect with God. But I look like Jesus in that I will have a resurrected body that will be made like His. I get goose bumps just thinking about this. Here it is stated more plainly: *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”* (I Jn. 3:2).

Brethren, you might look like Adam today, but tomorrow you will look like Jesus!

I love you. - Rick