**PREFIGURING OF JESUS (#5)**

***Jesus and David***

Educators tell us there are three types of learners.
1) Visual: learners prefer images and graphics.

2) Auditory: learners prefer verbal presentations.

3) Kinesthetic: learners prefer a physical, hands-on approach.

Which one are you? Personally I’m very much a visual learner. I like to “see” things in order to grasp them. I suppose that is why I would rather watch a YouTube video of assembling a bicycle then reading the confusing instructions. Give me a picture and I’ll try to figure it out. God knew there would be people like me, so He often spoke in Types and Anti-Types. Shadows and Substance. Metaphors. Similes. Parables. Allegories.

What on earth am I talking about? These words are simply ways men have been teaching since time began. If I were to give a complex statement as a rocket scientist or brain surgeon to a non-scientific audience I would have to break it down into words and pictures they could understand. Trying to explain rocket propulsion or neuro-transmitters would require I say something like, “Let me illustrate that …” Speaking to an elementary class I might simply shoot a rubber band across the room to explain propulsion, or, use two tin cans and a connected string to explain nerve transmission. The goal is to make the complex simple.

The most complex subject in the universe is trying to explain “*Immanuel*…’*God with us’*” (Matt. 1:23). How could mere mortals with finite brains possibly grasp the infinite reality of God becoming man. Explaining “*the* *manifold wisdom of God*” (Eph. 3:10) to simpletons like us seems like Mission: Impossible. How do you express the inexpressible? For instance, picture Albert Einstein describing his Law of Relativity with a blackboard loaded with all kinds of mumbo-jumbo. But then he ends with the equation **E=MC2.** The great physicist then breaks it down by saying,“Children, it’s all very simple. Energy (E) equals mass (M) times the speed of light (C) squared (2)."

Got it? Yeah, me neither.  But that would be like 2 + 2 = 4 compared to explaining the Incarnation of Christ. So, what did God do? He spent the entire Old Testament era (4000+ years) preparing man for the coming of the Son of God. How did He do it?

God appealed to Visual learners like me to describe Jesus by using **Types** (replicas of the original), and **Shadows** (outlines or silhouettes of the real thing). When on earth Jesus often explained Himself in **Metaphors** ("*I AM the Bread of Life*" – Jn. 6:35; "*I AM the Light of the World*" – Jn. 8:12; "*I AM the Door of the sheep*" – Jn. 10:7; "*I AM the Good Shepherd*" – Jn. 10:11; "*I AM the Resurrection and the Life*" – Jn. 11:25; "*I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life*" – Jn. 14:6; "*I AM the true Vine*" – Jn. 15:1). I love it.

To understand God we hear Jesus say, “*If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father*” (Jn. 14:7-11). To do that we must go back in time to those men God raised up to become “Types” of Christ. David was one such man. A thorough study of his life will reveal the “type” of person Jesus would be when he came to earth. For example, after David offered to build God a permanent Temple to replace the Tabernacle (tent), God rejected it. But then God made this promise to David, *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”* (2 Sam . 7:12-13). In other words the coming Messiah was to be a king with a kingdom, but it would be “*forever*.” Thus, the church.

While there are many events in David’s life that reflect Jesus, I would like to limit these to one well-known illustration. Everyone, whether religious or not, has heard the story of David versus Goliath. Take a moment and read I Samuel 17 to feel the full impact of this life-and-death showdown. It’s between a small, inexperienced shepherd boy, and a giant battle-tested champion. It is set up to make you believe David stands no chance against this nearly ten foot behemoth. Yet every child can tell you how this turns out. David wins. Israel routs the Philistines. Game. Set. Match.

But I believe God wants us to see beyond David’s victory to a much bigger battle: Christ vs. Satan. Just as one man (David) faced one man (Goliath) in a winner-take-all contest, Jesus likewise faces Satan in a winner-take-all spiritual battle. Jesus represents us, while Satan represents the world. The eternal destiny of billions hangs in the balance.

John describes the odds perfectly in Revelation 12 when a pregnant woman with Child is faced by a fiery red Dragon who waits to slay Him at birth. He fails and this Child grows up to become a conquering King of kings, defeating Satan, and throwing him into hell forever (Rev. 19-20). It’s another David vs Goliath epic battle, only magnified a hundred-fold. Jesus wins. The church routs the world. Game. Set. Match.

Think about this battle again, looking at it through the eyes of a Christian. Just as David’s victory was Israel’s victory, giving them courage to finally chase the enemy to destroy them (I Sam. 17:51-53), so Christ’s victory over Satan was our victory, giving us courage to look Satan, and death, in the face and destroy them (Eph. 6:10-18).

*“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* (Heb. 2:14-15)

Brethren, there are so many parallels of David and Jesus. I have given you but one. My goal was to get you to go back and read again David’s fascinating life and see why the Messiah was to be called, “*the son of David*” (Matt. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:15; 22:42; Rom. 1:3; etc). By carefully looking below the surface and seeing David’s life as foreshadowing Jesus’ life, you will appreciate those Old Testament events as so much more than a children’s Bible story.

*“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* (I Sam. 16:7). David was indeed a “*man after God’s own heart*” (Ac. 13:22). Just like Jesus.

What kind of a learner are you? If you are like me I hope you have enjoyed these studies on the Figures of Christ as represented by men like David, Melchizedek, Joshua, Moses and Adam. I love you. - Rick