

A Special Type of Christ

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Enjoying the story of Mephibosheth as an illustration of the grace of God (see 2 Samuel 9:1-13), the young Bible student decided to share it as his devotional in the morning class. To his surprise, the instructor reprimanded him for using the characters in the story in a typical fashion. He was told to interpret the Old Testament account from a historical perspective and to only make general applications for his hearers. In tears, the student spoke to me about this matter.

It is true that typology has been misused and abused by some well-meaning people, and could pose a danger in Biblical interpretation. We must remember, however, that when Jesus shared the Old Testament with the two disciples on the Emmaus Road, He saw more than a general application in them. He saw Himself! “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27).

The word “dwelt” in the above phrase “and dwelt among us” actually means “tabernacled.” With this meaning and the additional statement, “and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth,” it is easily seen that the Tabernacle in the Wilderness is a type of Christ. As the glory of God was revealed in the Tabernacle, so God’s glory is beheld in Jesus. Let’s look at this special type of Christ.

The Tabernacle is a special type of Christ in its undesirable appearance! Over the holy place and the most holy place, the covering was “of rams’ skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers’ skins” (Exodus 26:14). To look down upon the Tabernacle, the badger skins would not have presented a pretty sight. That’s how Jesus looks to the unregenerate heart. As Isaiah prophesied, “when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2).

The Tabernacle is a special type of Christ in its unique arrangement! We have previously noticed that this sacred habitation was erected as the centerpiece of the encampment (see Numbers 2:17). Everything and everybody revolved around the Tabernacle. Ah, is not Christ the centerpiece of our spiritual experience and worship? Even He declared, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

The Tabernacle is a special type of Christ in its unmistakable access! Not only did those who dwelt on the east side of the Tabernacle, near the gate of entrance, have access, but there was access for those whose tents were on the west, south and north sides, as well. Similarly, the Lord Jesus is accessible to those who desire to come to God. Jesus Himself said, “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). If you are outside the Savior, may you see Him as your only way to the Father today!