

Wednesday Night Study: Biblical Typology

Feb 18, 2026

Summary

Typology: Water from the Rock – Christ Foreshadowed

Scripture References

Exodus 17:1–7; Numbers 20:1–13; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6; Matthew 5:6; John 7:37–39; Acts 2:42; Genesis 3:1; John 1:1, 14; Romans 1:18–23; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 10:10–14

Introduction

The group continued its series on Old-Testament typology, shifting from individual “types” to event “types.” Two separate wilderness water-from-the-rock episodes were studied as pictures of Christ’s redemptive work—one early in Israel’s journey (Ex 17) and one nearly forty years later (Nu 20).

Key Points

- **Two Distinct Events**
 - Different locations (Wilderness of Sin vs. Zin).
 - Separated by ~38–39 years; Miriam’s death confirms the later timing.
 - God’s commands differ: “strike the rock” (Ex 17) vs. “speak to the rock” (Nu 20).
- **Historic “Bookends” of the Wilderness**
 - Events frame Israel’s forty-year sanctification journey.
 - Early and late generations witnessed identical divine provision, yet both murmured.
- **Shared Circumstances**
 - God sovereignly leads Israel to waterless camps.
 - Thirst exposes unbelief; grumbling targets Moses/Aaron, ultimately God.
 - In both cases God grants water despite sin.
- **Typological Parallels to Christ**
 - Rock = Christ (1 Co 10).
 - Staff = authority, rule, judgment.
 - First event: substitutionary judgment—God “stands on the rock,” receives the blow, life-giving water flows.
 - Second event: once-for-all sacrifice completed; only faith-filled word is required. Re-striking is forbidden, prefiguring the sufficiency of the cross (Heb 10).
- **Moses’ Failure (Nu 20)**
 - Anger, mis-representation of God, second striking of the rock.
 - Consequence: exclusion from the Promised Land—underscores seriousness of altering the gospel picture.
 - Yet God still gives water, showing grace surpassing human failure.

Theological / Exegetical Points

- Substitutionary atonement and federal headship illustrated by God standing where the blow would fall.
- Sanctification imagery: wilderness wanderings = lifelong spiritual formation.

- Total depravity: repeated unbelief despite abundant revelation.
- Means of grace: Word, prayer, and corporate worship supply ongoing “water.”
- Once-for-allness of Christ’s sacrifice—no repeated judgment needed (Heb 10:10-14).
- Confession (“speaking to the rock”) signifies faith-response after the cross (Rom 8:1).

Interaction & Group Responses

- Question on “Sin” vs. “Zin”: clarified Hebrew pronunciation (“Seen”)—a place name, not moral commentary.
- Member connected staff to cross, water to Holy Spirit—affirmed as helpful analogy.
- Inquiry on blood-and-water from Jesus’ side: leader noted medical proof of death; some see additional symbolism but Scripture uses it primarily as evidence of actual death.

Practical Applications

- Trust God’s provision; remember past faithfulness instead of grumbling.
- Rest in Christ’s finished work—no need to “strike” again through self-effort or guilt.
- Respond in faith-filled speech and obedience; let confession replace complaint.
- Engage the means of grace: Scripture, prayer, church fellowship, ordinances.
- Expect God’s sanctifying tests; they reveal real heart-condition and deepen dependence.

Prayer / Intercession Items

- Debbie – upcoming imaging (aneurysm) 2/26; surgical consult 3/2; GI block/leaky valve.
- Evelyn – mouth/throat lesions spreading; possible surgery.
- Tristan – chronic pain management; physical therapy; Also prayers for Lillie and Joe
- General wisdom for doctors; grace for caregivers; continued spiritual growth for the group.