













Luke 11:14-16

14 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

Luke 11:29-32

29 When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12:38-42

- 38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."
- 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:38-42

41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

Mark 8:11-12

11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. 12 He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it."

John 6:26, 29-30

- 26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."
- 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
 - 30 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?

"Others tested him by asking for a more spectacular sign from heaven. Only Luke referred to the temptation/test for a sign. Some opponents did not see the exorcism as sufficient evidence. They wanted a clearer sign, i.e., a sign from heaven. With this statement Luke tied this pericope to Luke 11:29–32 by foreshadowing it. Luke wanted his readers to understand that to ask for signs, both in Jesus' day and possibly their own (cf. 1 Cor 1:22), was to tempt the Lord (Luke 4:12). There was sufficient proof for faith in the Scriptures (cf. 16:31). Robert H. Stein, Luke, vol. 24, The New American Commentary

(Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 331.

Today's Message

- 1. Something Greater than Jonah
- 2. Something Greater than Solomon
 - 3. Seeing Jesus as the Hero

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Heroes & Villains Approach

- 1. Man-Centered, Not God-Centered
 - 2. Moralistic
- 3. Fragments the Bible instead of seeing Whole Story
 - 4. Not big on Jesus
 - 5. Might miss original meaning
 - 6. Too individualistic

Luke 24:25-27

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

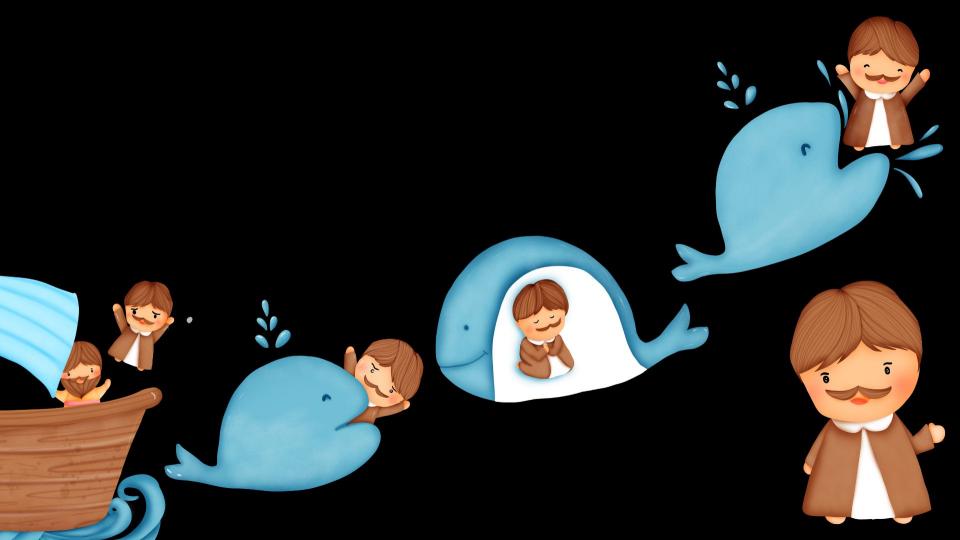
JESUS CHRIST



Biblical Typology

Definition: A type is a <u>real</u> person, event, or thing, that God has ordained as a predictive pattern or resemblance of Jesus' person and work.

Something Greater than Jonah?



Jonah 1:1-3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Jonah 1:17

17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17; 2:10

17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

10 And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3:1-5

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. 4 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." 5 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Matthew 12:40

- 38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."
- 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Something Greater than Jonah

- 1. Both prophets but with different messages
- 2. Jonah is an angry, reluctant prophet but Jesus is a willing prophet delighted to save
 - 3. Jonah made haste to flee, Jesus set his face to go
- 4. Jonah was delivered from death, Jesus was not spared death, but delivered in his resurrection
 - 5. Jonah the guilty brought out of the depths, Jesus the innocent cast into the depths

Something Greater than Solomon?



1 Kings 10:1-13

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her.

- 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at[a] the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.
- 6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

- 8 How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."
 - 10 And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

- 11 (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almugwood and precious stones. 12 The king used the almugwood to make supports[d] for the temple of the Lord and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almugwood has never been imported or seen since that day.)
 - 13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

Something Greater than Solomon

- 1. Both are kings in the line of David
- 2. Solomon's heart goes astray, Jesus remains faithful
 - 3. Solomon's wisdom is derivative, Jesus <u>is</u> wisdom
- 4. Solomon's greatness was from God, Jesus' greatness is because he <u>is</u> God
 - 5. Solomon builds a temple, Jesus <u>is</u> the temple
- 6. Solomon gained power in a bloody coup, Jesus gained power through a bloody death

How is this not just another story?

Faith Response > Signs & Wisdom

31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Jesus Highlights Faith Responses

Ninevites

- Lowly
- Sought (By God)
 - Few Words
 - Fear
 - Repentance
- "God may turn and relent" (Jonah 3:9)

Queen of Sheba

- A Big Deal!
- Seeking Answers (God)
 - Pressing Questions
 - Reverence
 - Recognizes Solomon's
- greatness
- Blesses God (1 Kings 10:9)

Matthew 12:40

- 38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."
- 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.



"As Jonah was a sign ... so also will the Son of Man. Even as Jonah's experience was a sign, so the resurrection of the Son of Man would be a sign, and the core of the early church's preaching would be Jesus' death and resurrection (Acts 1:22; 2:31; 3:15; 4:33; 5:30–32).



~Robert H. Stein, Luke, vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 335.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

To the unbelieving Jew a crucified Messiah is the epitome of weakness and defeat, a flat-out contradiction and a stumbling block that goes against all expectations of a royal, conquering king. Similarly, to the Greeks, distinguished by their quest for wisdom, the notion of an executed criminal as the locus of God's wisdom amounted to sheer nonsense....

The "stumbling block" and "foolishness" language ascribed to Christ in his crucifixion is difficult for the modern Christian to grasp, but we have to keep in mind how the proclamation of an executed criminal as "good news" would have played out in the first-century context to the Jew with fervent messianic expectations and to the Greek who coveted honor, esteem, and success.

~Mark Taylor, 1 Corinthians, ed. E. Ray Clendenen, vol. 28, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014), 71.



The True Story Transforms

- 1. Obedience to God
 - 2. Identity
 - 3. Joy
 - 4. Community
 - 5. Hopefulness

EVALUATION



Gospel Response

Is the message of the cross foolishness or power for you?

Be moved by the Story of Someone Greater