

## What is typology?

The Church has always read the New Testament in light of the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. In doing so, the Church often sees persons and events in the Old Testament as pointing beyond themselves to persons and events in the New Testament.

This traditional method of interpreting Scripture is known as typology, with the old seen as a “type” of the new. A type is simply a person or event in Scripture that points forward to a later person or event. The type has some similarities with its fulfillment. An example would be that the crossing of the Red Sea is a “type” of Christ’s victory and the sacrament of Baptism.

This approach to biblical interpretation enables us to see that Scripture not only has a literal-historical sense, but also spiritual senses that add richness to our reading of Scripture (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 115-17)

When, therefore, we see the disobedience of Adam in light of the obedience of Christ, we are interpreting Scripture as the Church has done from her earliest days. St. Paul makes explicit his own use of typology when he writes: “Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a *type* of the one who was to come” (Rom. 5:14).