

## E. Dispensationalism

Is a dispensationalist approach correct? How may we learn from it? How do we talk to those holding this approach?

# Reading on Dispensationalism

- Required:
  - Poythress, *Understanding Dispensationalists*
  - Ryrie, *Dispensationalism* chap. 5
- Optional:
  - Allis, *Prophecy and the Church*, chap. 2 (16-54) (dispensational hermeneutics)
  - Fairbairn, *Interpretation of Prophecy*
  - note Blaising and Bock on progressive dispensationalism

# F. Typology



# Reading Assignment on Typology

- Required:
  - Clowney, *Preaching and Biblical Theology* 98-112
  - Vos, *Biblical Theology*, the part of chap. 8 on typology, 161-172 (1948) or 143-155 (1975).

# 1. Bibliography of Typology

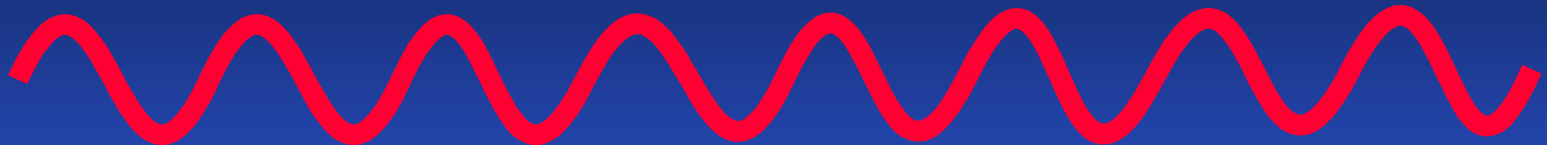
- Fairbairn, Patrick. *The Typology of Scripture* (classic).
- Davidson, Richard M. *Typology in Scripture*, 1981.
- Meek, James A. “Toward a Biblical Typology,” Th.M. thesis, WTS, 1981.

## 2. Definitions of Key Terms



# Analogy

- Robertson: “similarity of circumstances.”
- “likeness of persons, events, places, etc.”
- A recurrent principle in redemptive history.



- Does not require NT fulfillment.
- Illustrations:
  - Compare Gen. 50:20 to Acts 2:23
  - Heb. 11

# Symbolism

- Robertson: “A material representation of redemptive truth.”
- “An earthly representation of divine truth.”
- Has meaning at the time.
- Illustration: manna symbolizes God’s daily care.

truth



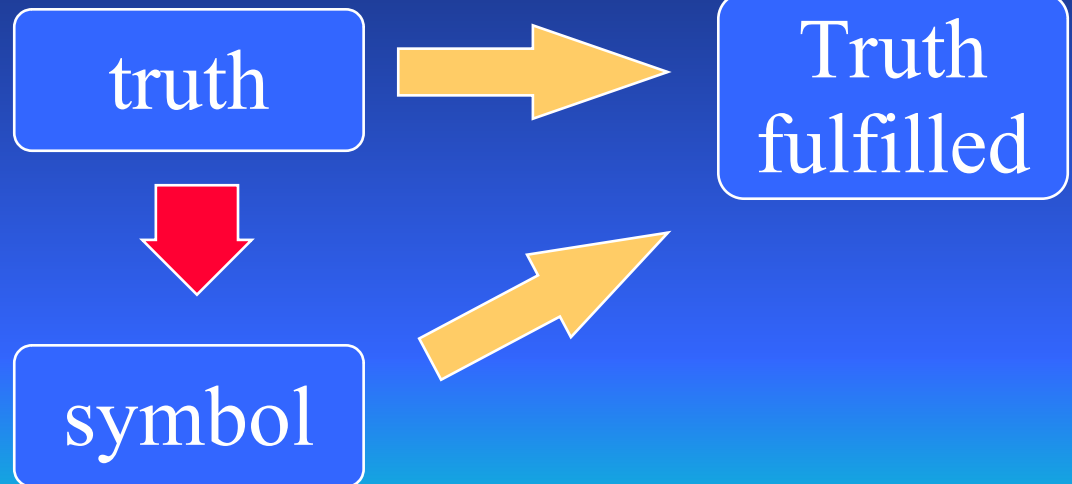
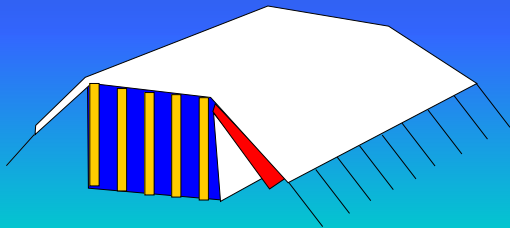
symbol



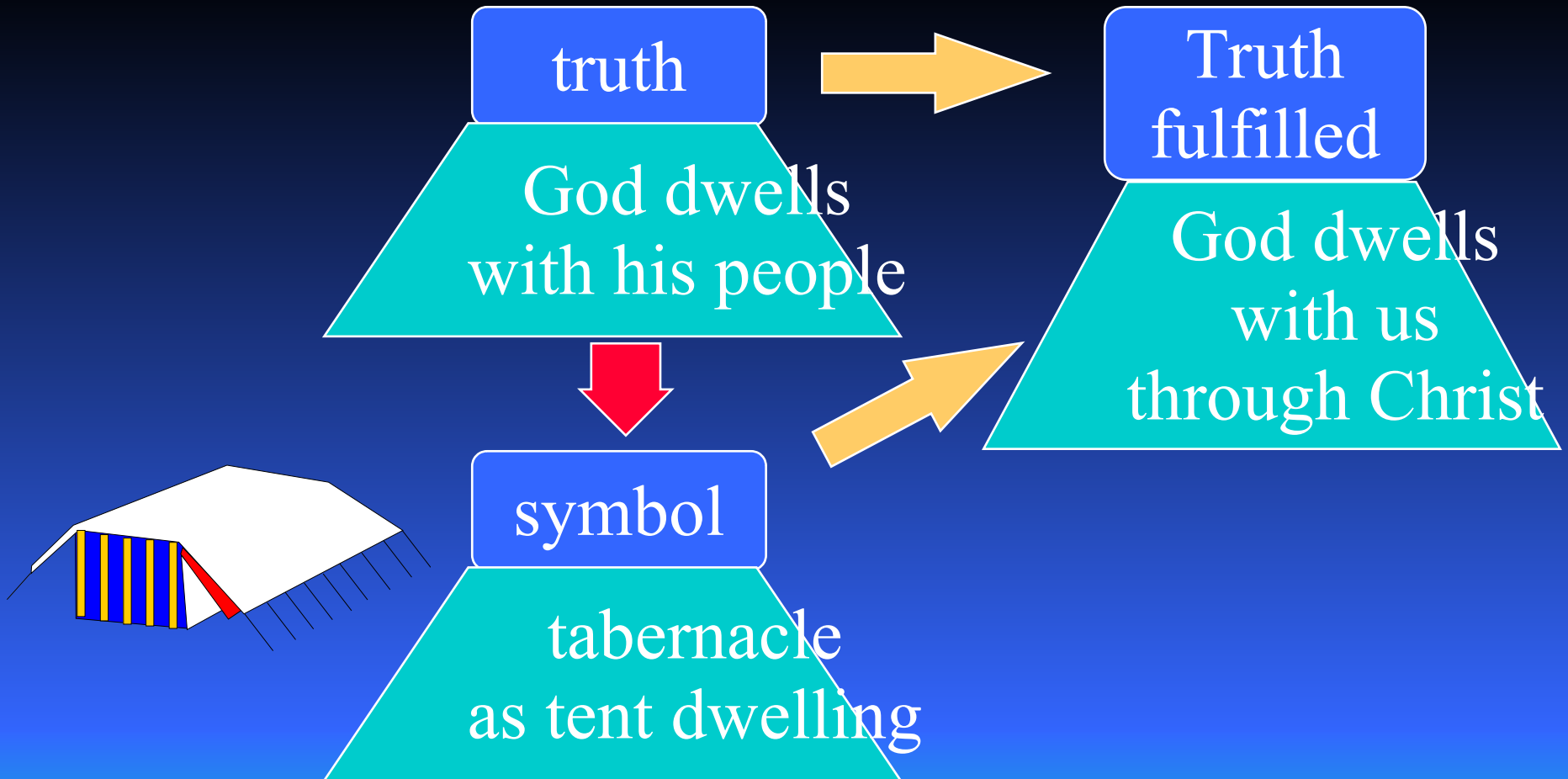
# Type

- Robertson: “a prophetic embodiment of redemptive truth anticipating the history and consummation of God’s purposes”
- “A symbol pointing to a fulfillment”

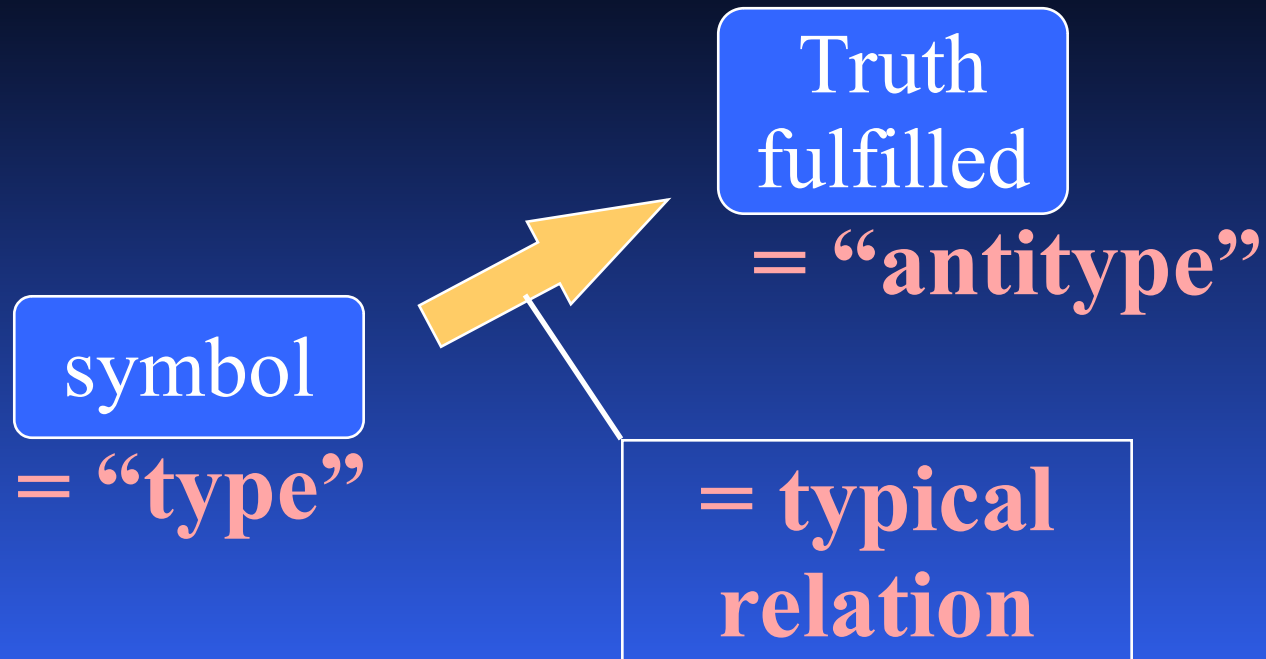
- Illustration:  
the tabernacle



# The Tabernacle as a Type



# Terms in Typology



study of the whole = **typology**

# Prophecy

- Robertson: “verbal or enacted prediction”
- ... in connection with contemporary preaching
  - OT prophets were divine messengers
  - but in popular thinking, “prophet” connotes prediction

# Allegorization

- Robertson: “Accidental, incidental, or artificial relationships”
- “Finding extra symbolic meaning through accidental, incidental, or artificial relationships”



- Illustration: frankincense, gold, and myrrh standing for the Trinity



Where did  
he get that?

# Allegory

- “A fictional narrative with correspondences between two spheres”
- Illustration: Judges 9:8-15; Luke 15:3-7
- Do not confuse with “allegorization.”  
Allegorization treats all as allegory.



# Evaluation

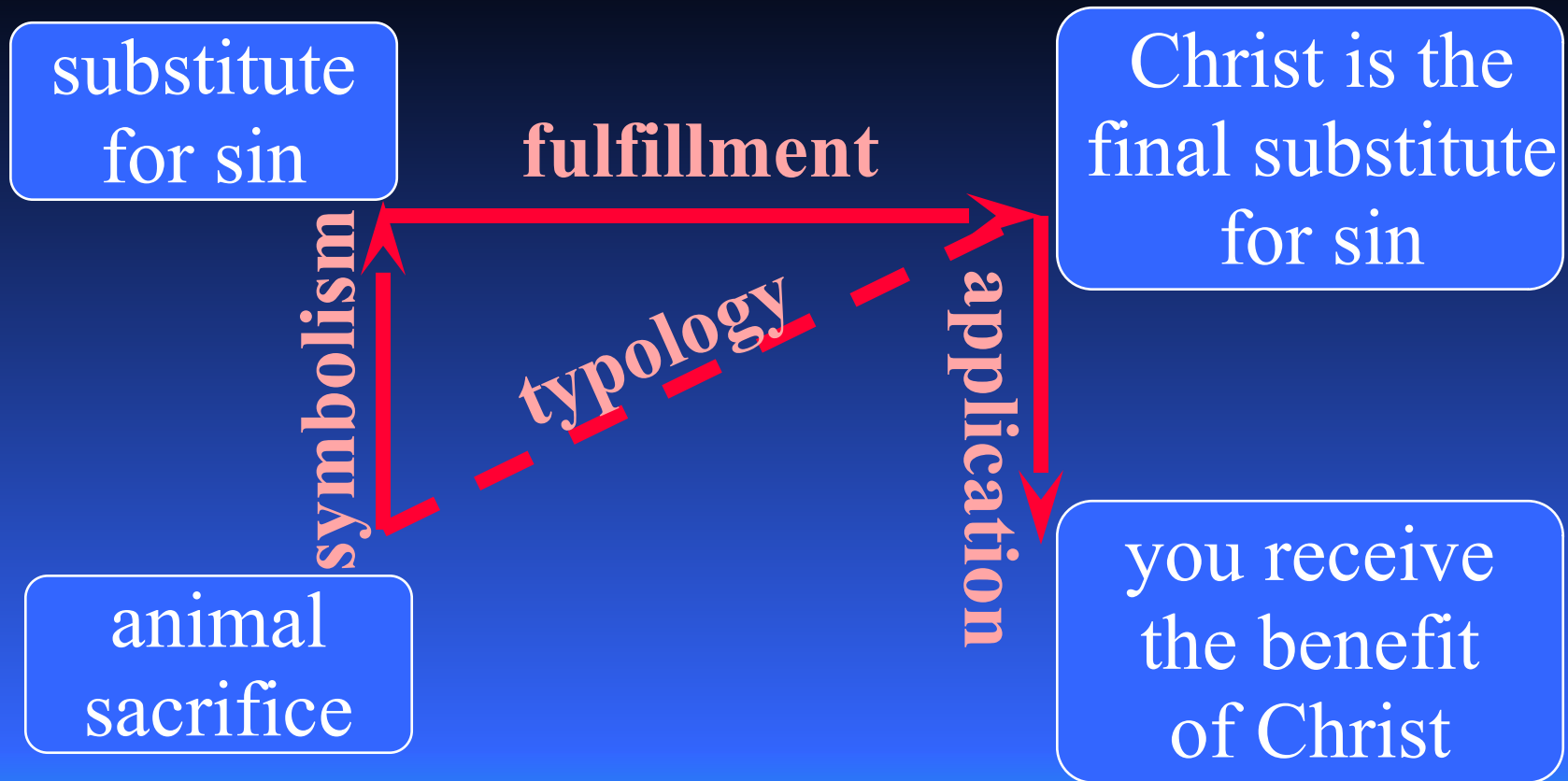
- Distinctions are useful in appreciating diversity.
- But boundaries are fuzzy.
- Categories can be stretched into perspectives.

### 3. Principles for Interpreting Types

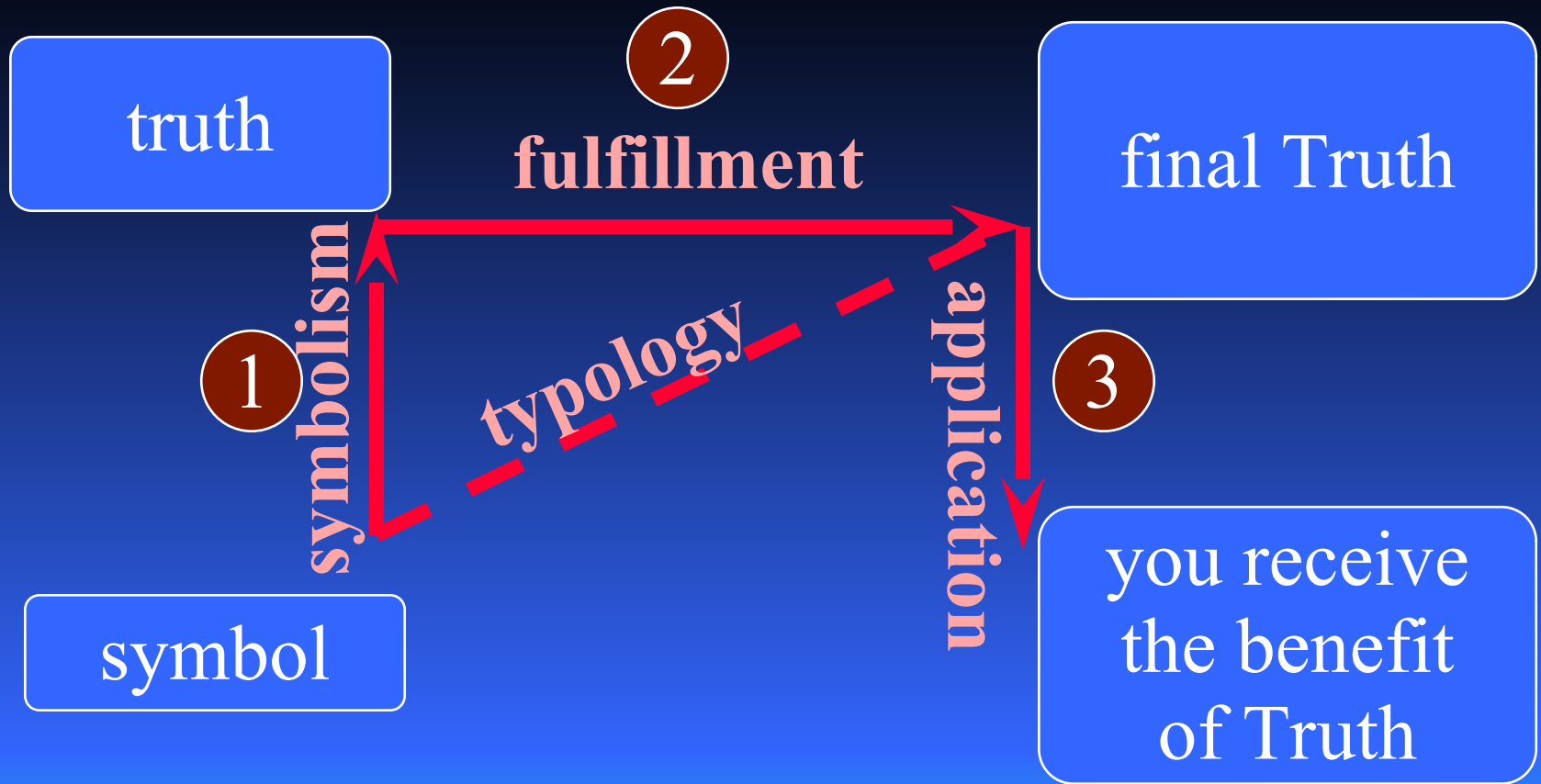




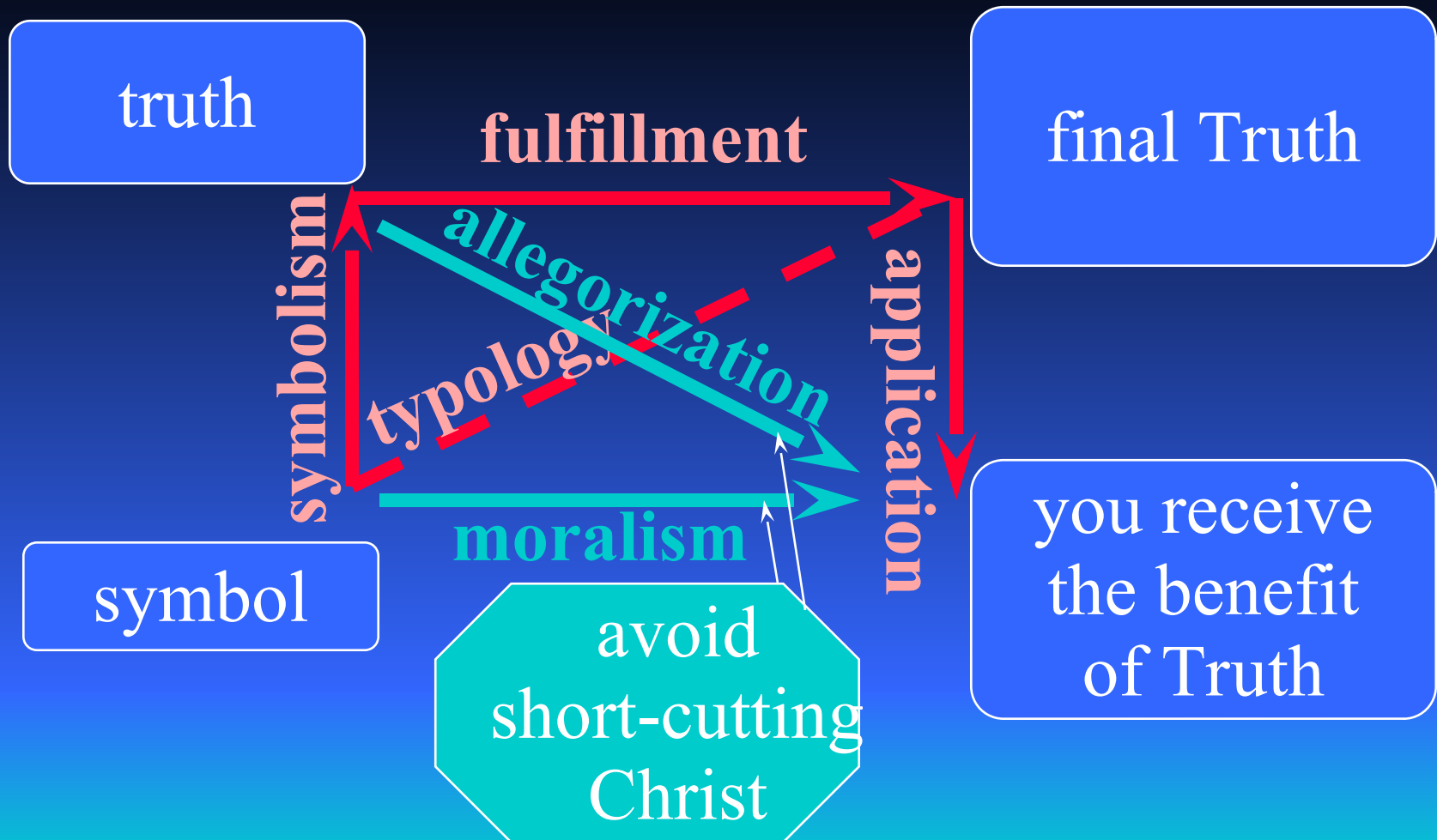
# An Example: Sacrifices



# Clowney's Triangle of Typology

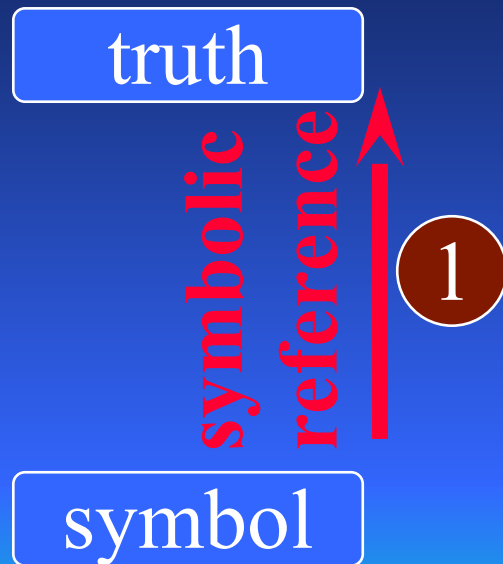


# Avoiding the False Routes



# Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

- What did it symbolize then?



Attend to  
context.

# Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?



Attend to  
context.

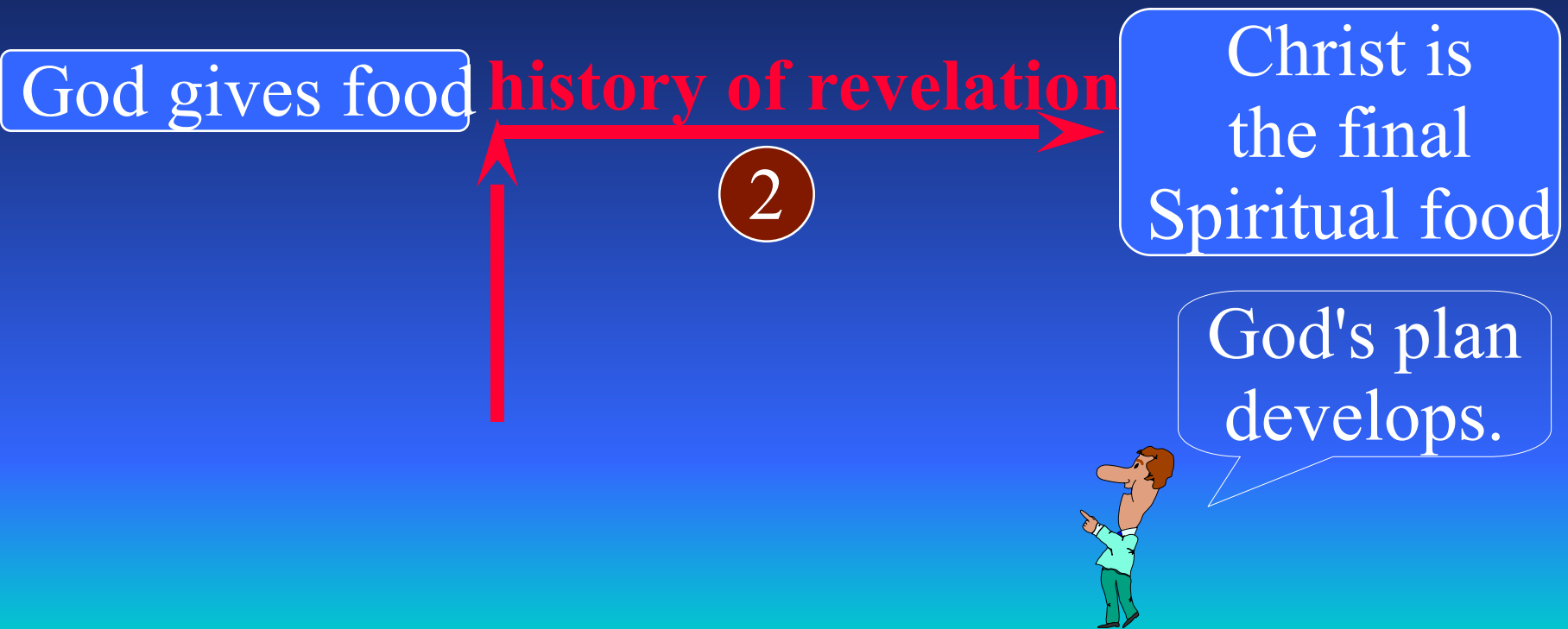
# Step 2: Go Forward in History

- What does it anticipate?



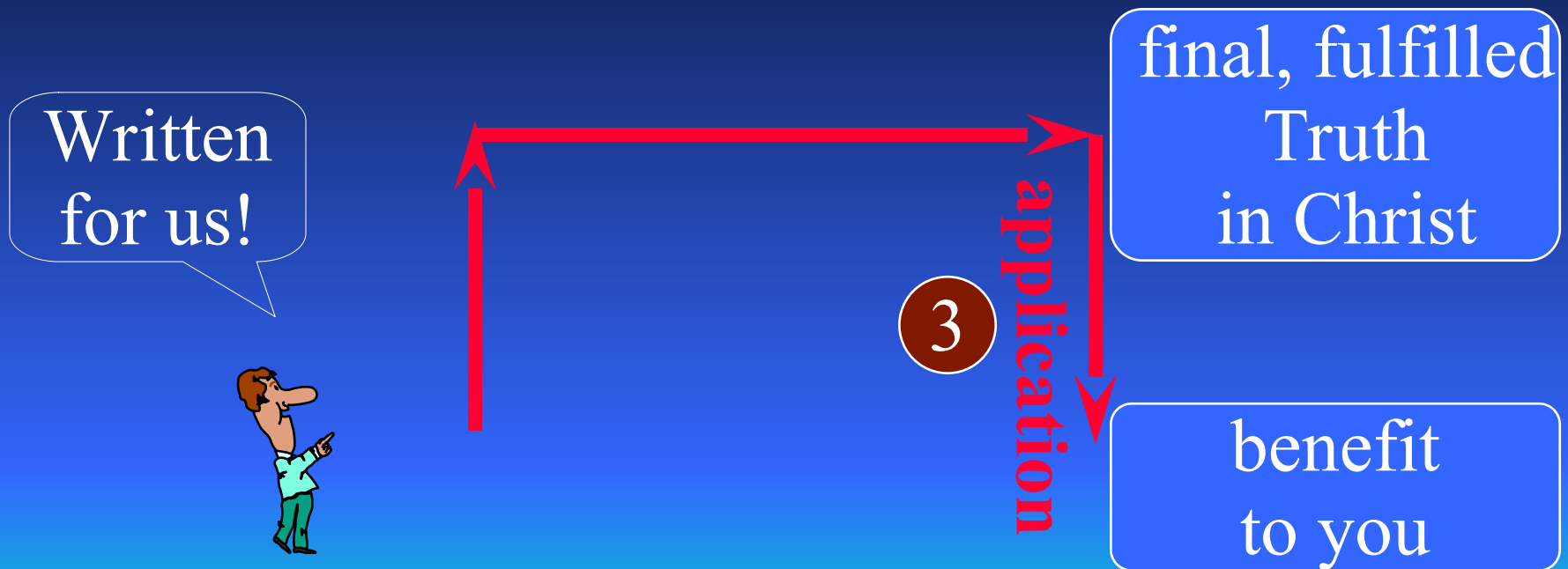
# Illustration of Step 2 (Fulfill)

- What does it anticipate?



# Step 3: Apply to Us

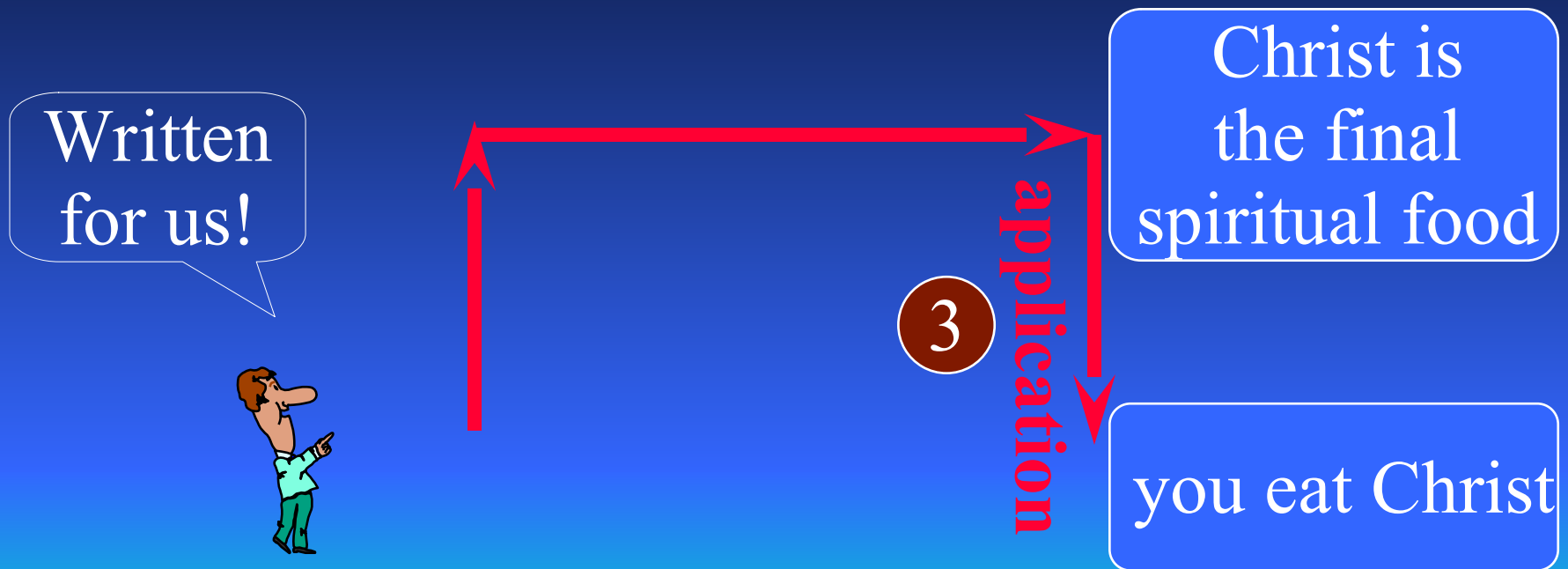
- How do we benefit?



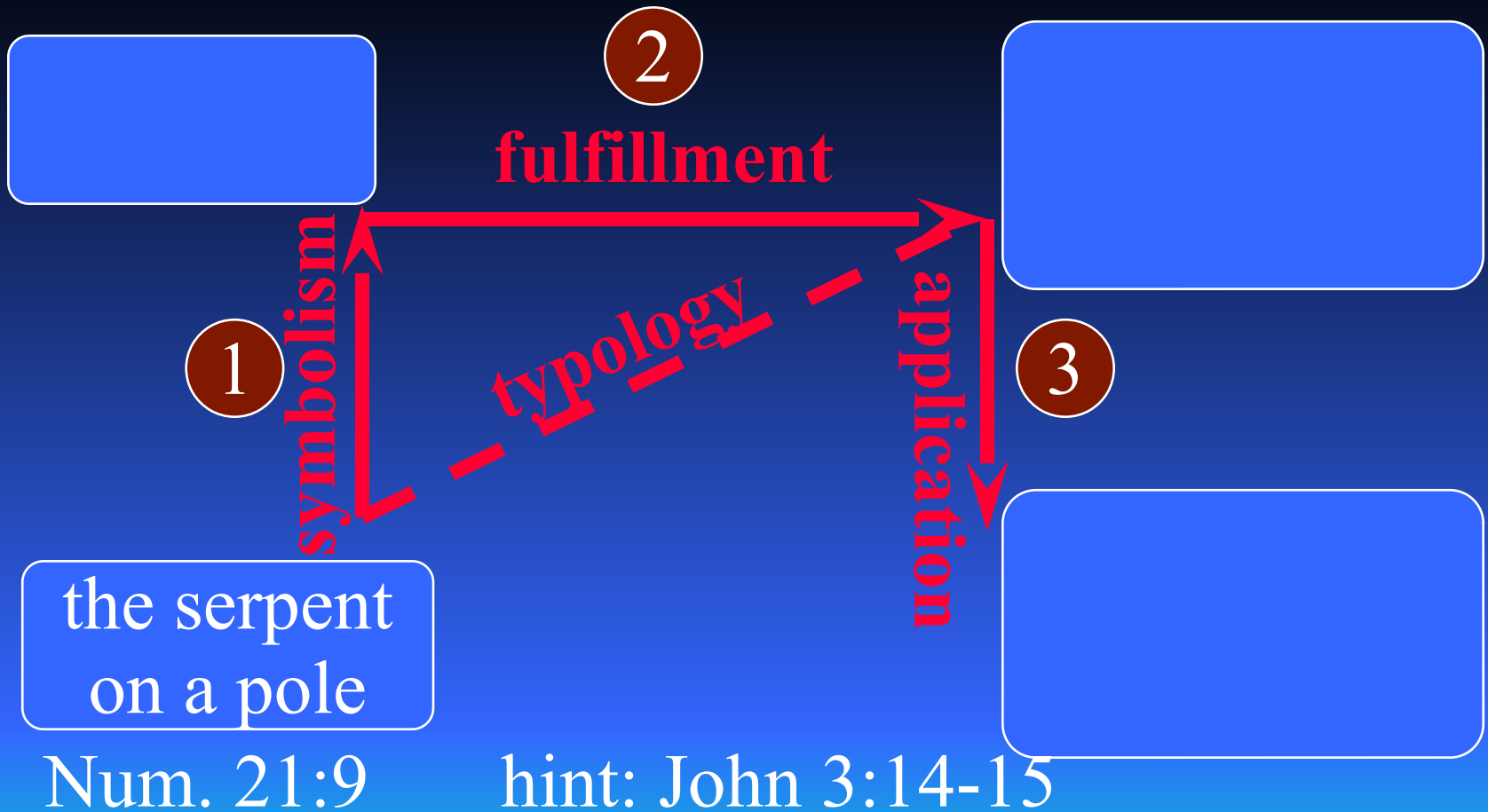


# Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

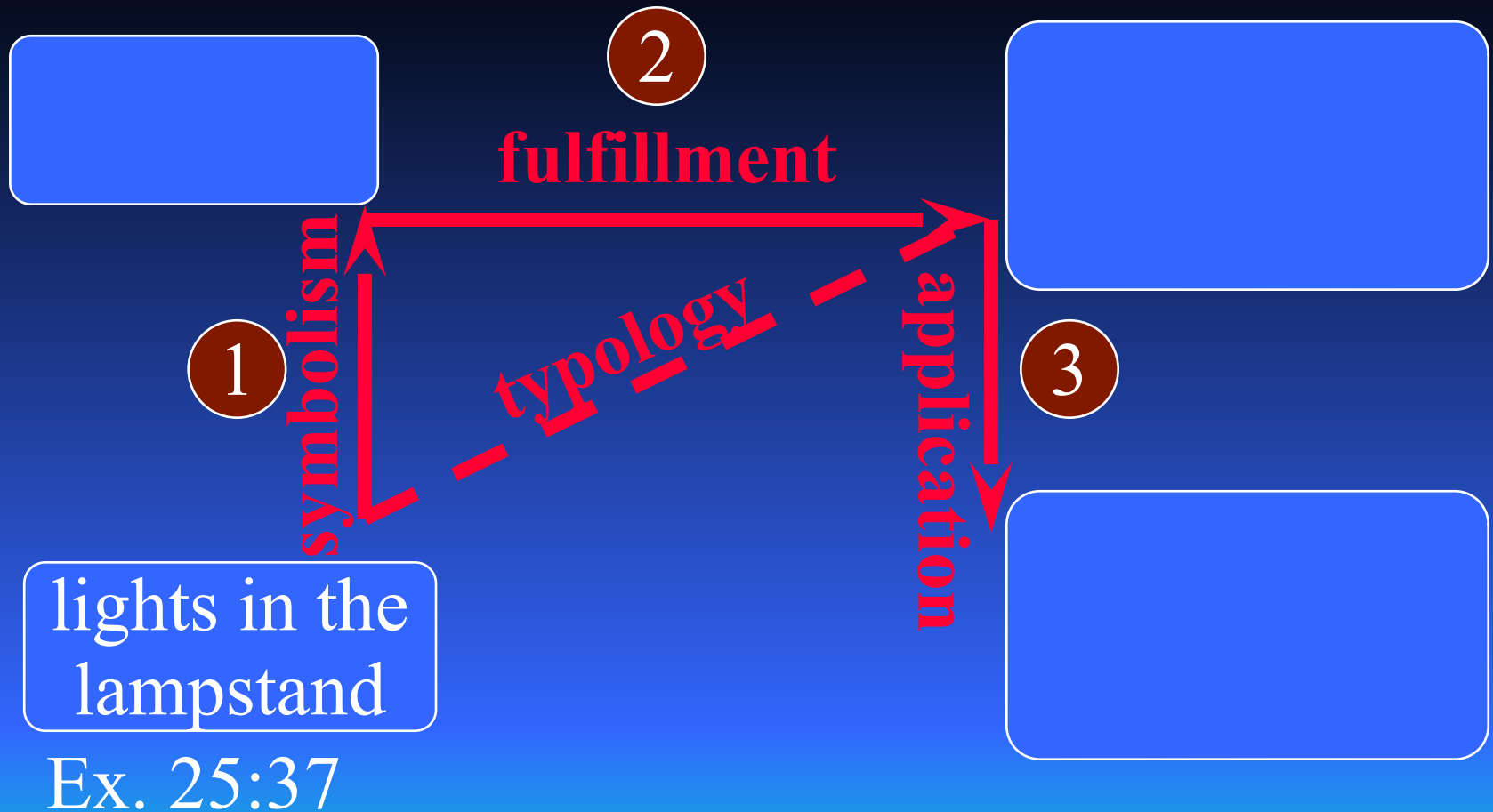
- How do we benefit?



# An Exercise: The Bronze Serpent

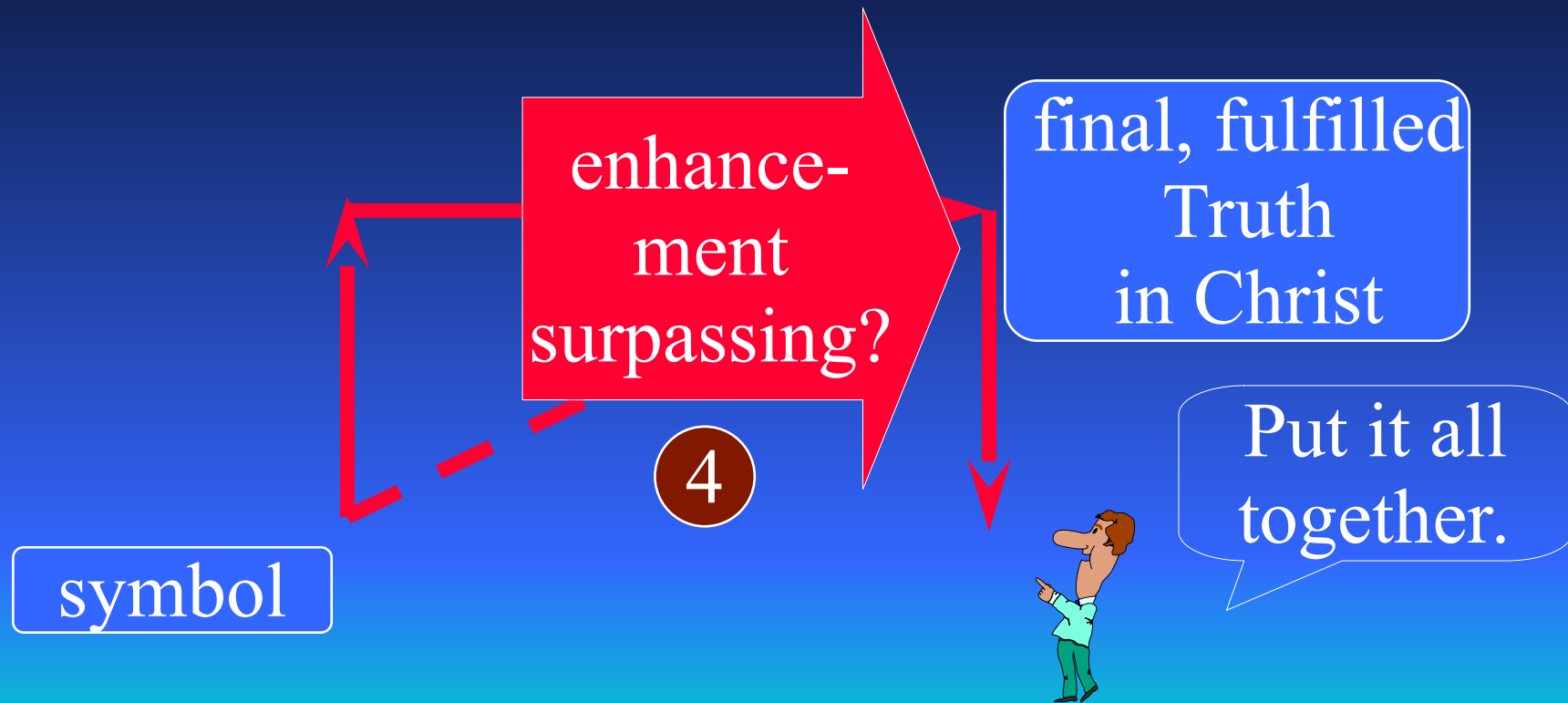


# An Exercise: Lights in the Lampstand



# Step 4: How Does Fulfillment Surpass the Earlier Stages?

- Fulfillment surpasses the earlier.



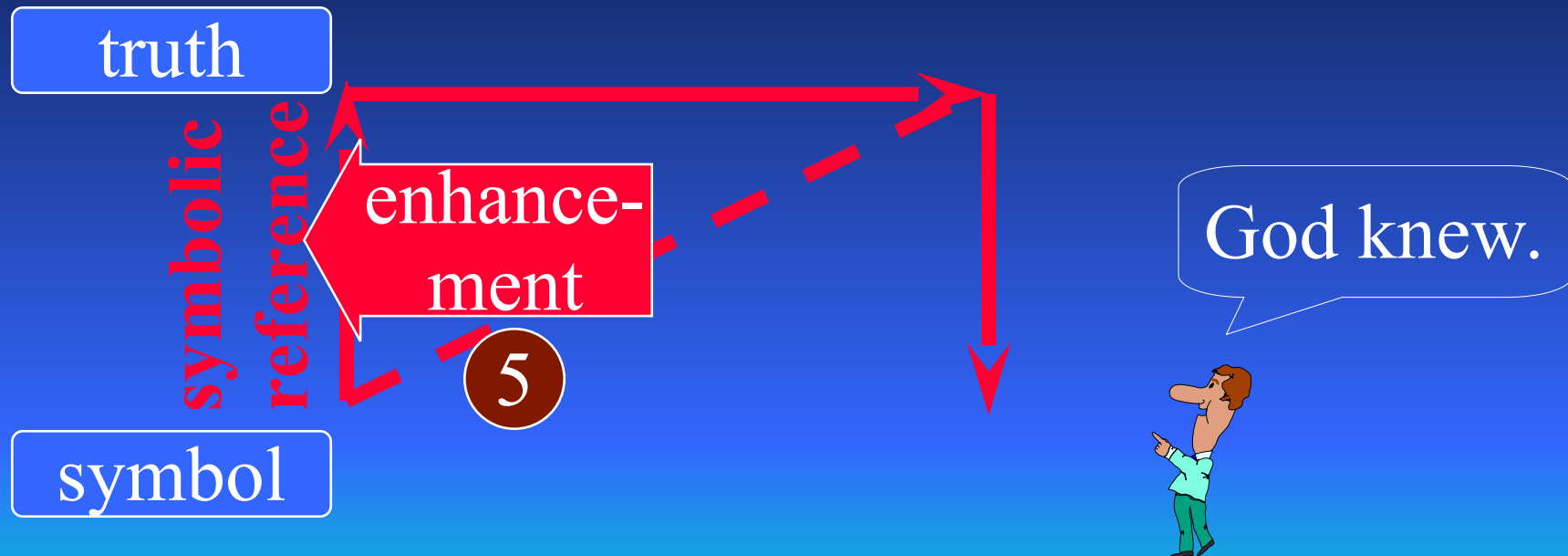
# Illustration of Step 4 (More)

- Fulfillment surpasses the earlier.



# Step 5: Deepen the Earlier Stage

- More significance in the original?



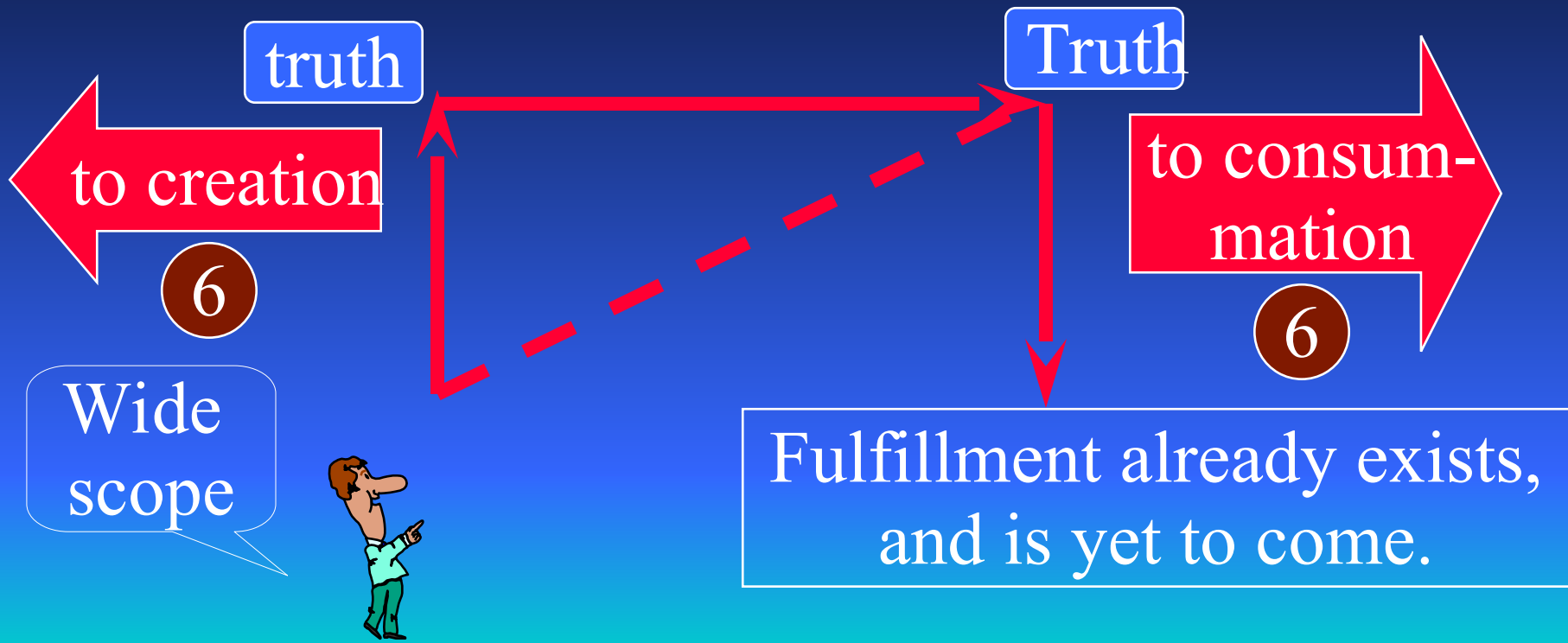
# Illustration of Step 5 (Deepen)

- More significance in the original?



# Step 6: Trace Beginning and End

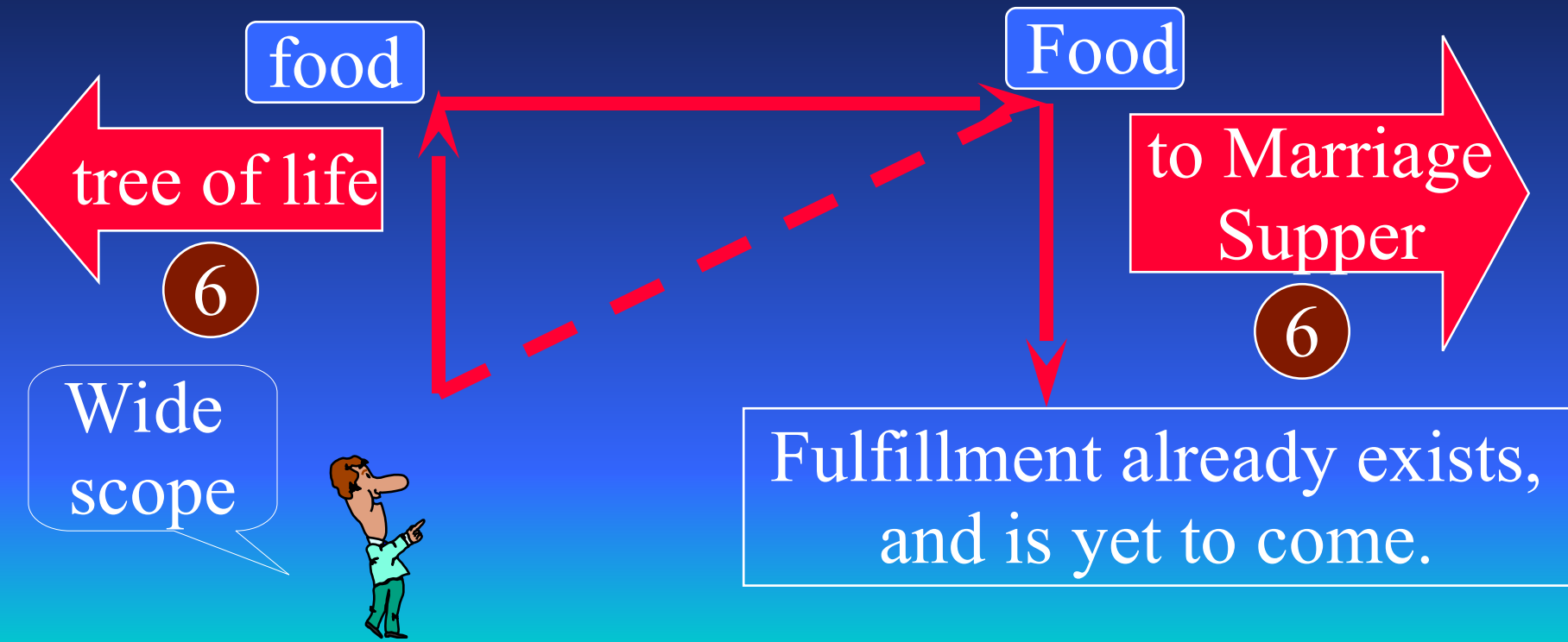
- Trace from creation to consummation.





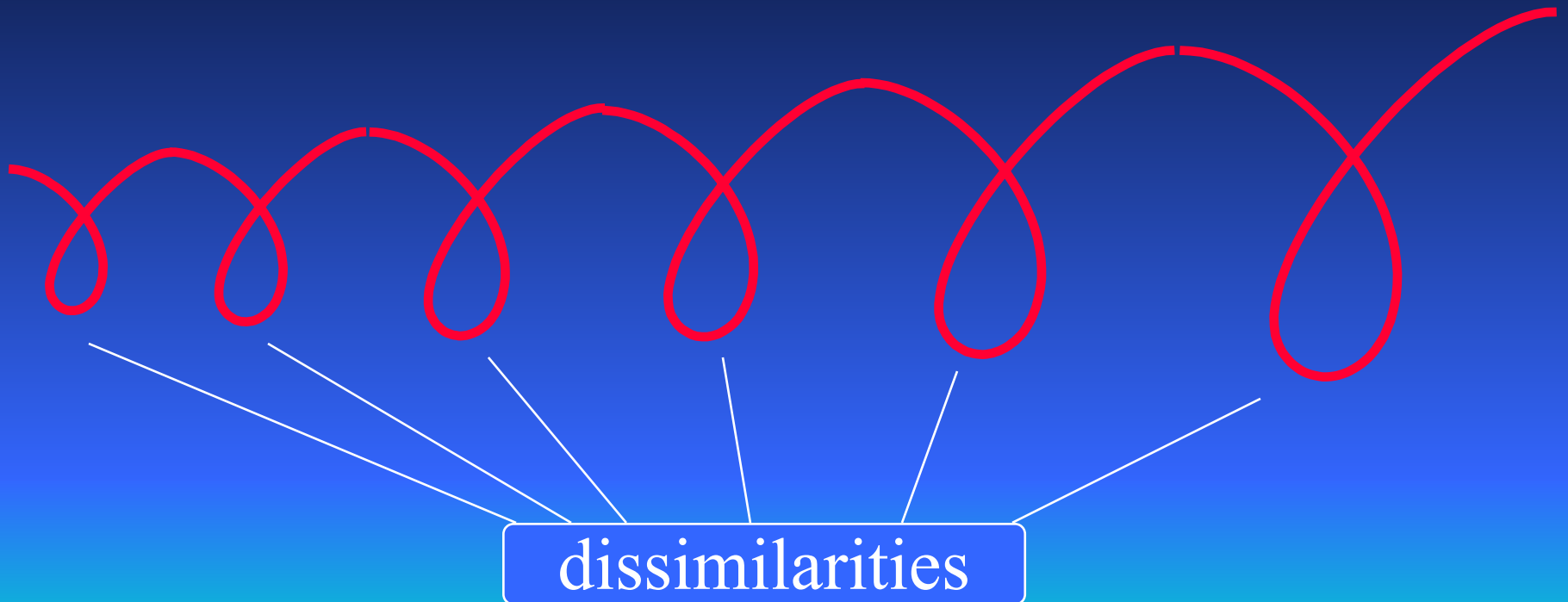
# Illustration of Step 6 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.



## Step 7: Distinctiveness

- Note distinctiveness of each epoch.



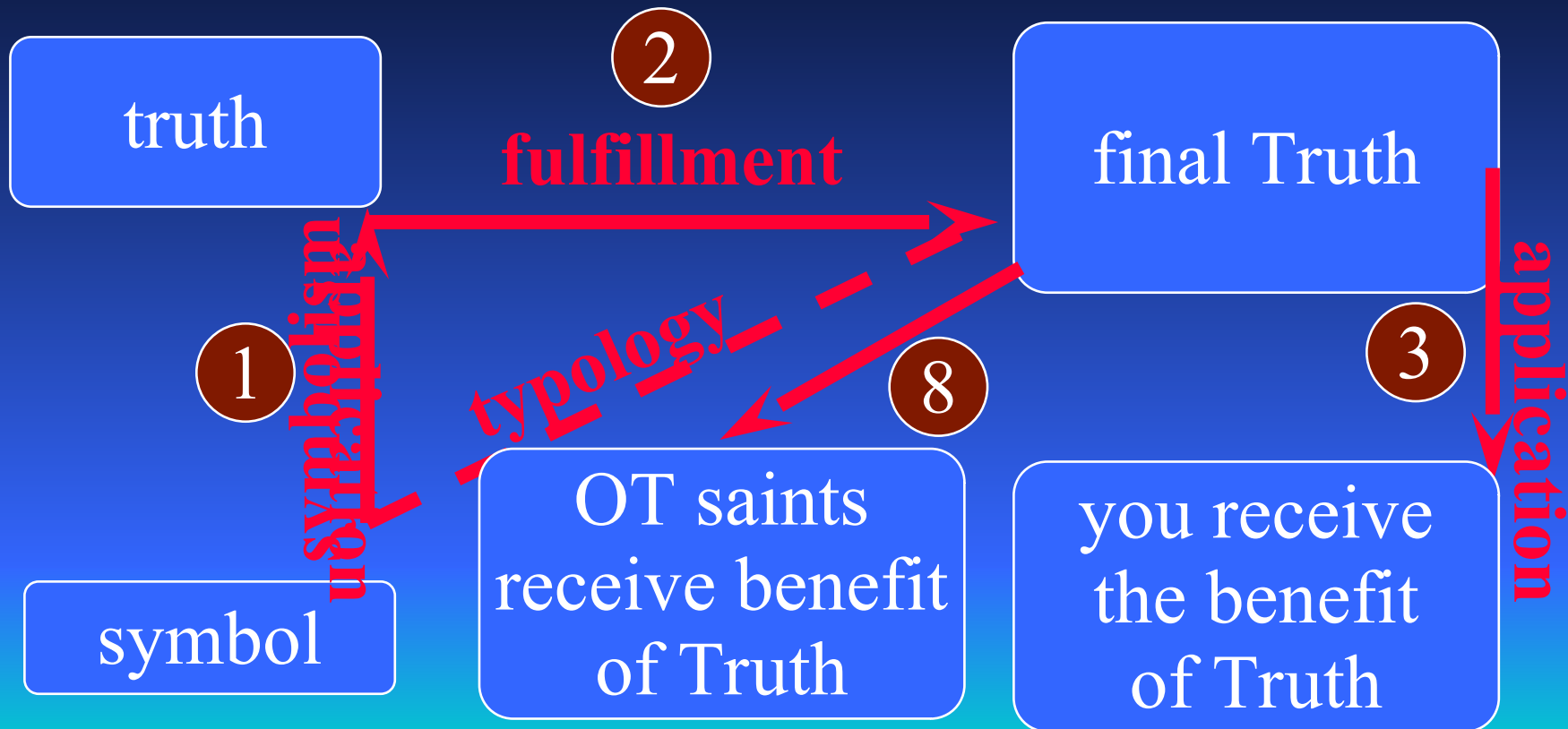
# Illustration of Step 7 ( Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.



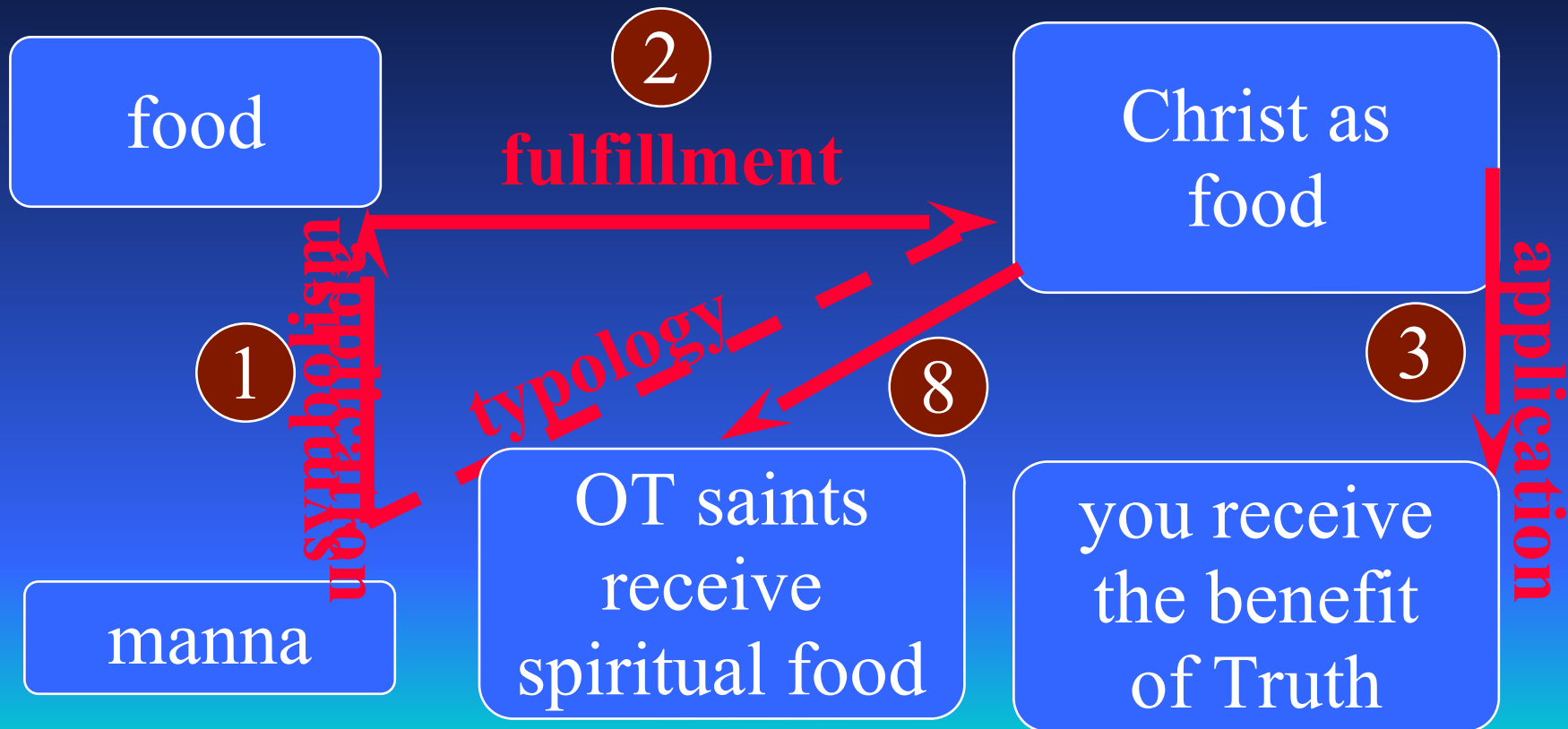
# Step 8: Application in the OT (an idea from Tim Yates)

- Note how God applies the benefits of Christ to OT saints



# Illustration of Step 8

- Note how God applies the benefits of Christ to OT saints



# Limits of Typology

- No new doctrine or predictions.
- Because:
  - Christ is not hidden but revealed!  
(We are not gnostics.)
  - Shadow is less full than fulfillment.
  - One needs context to control analogy.

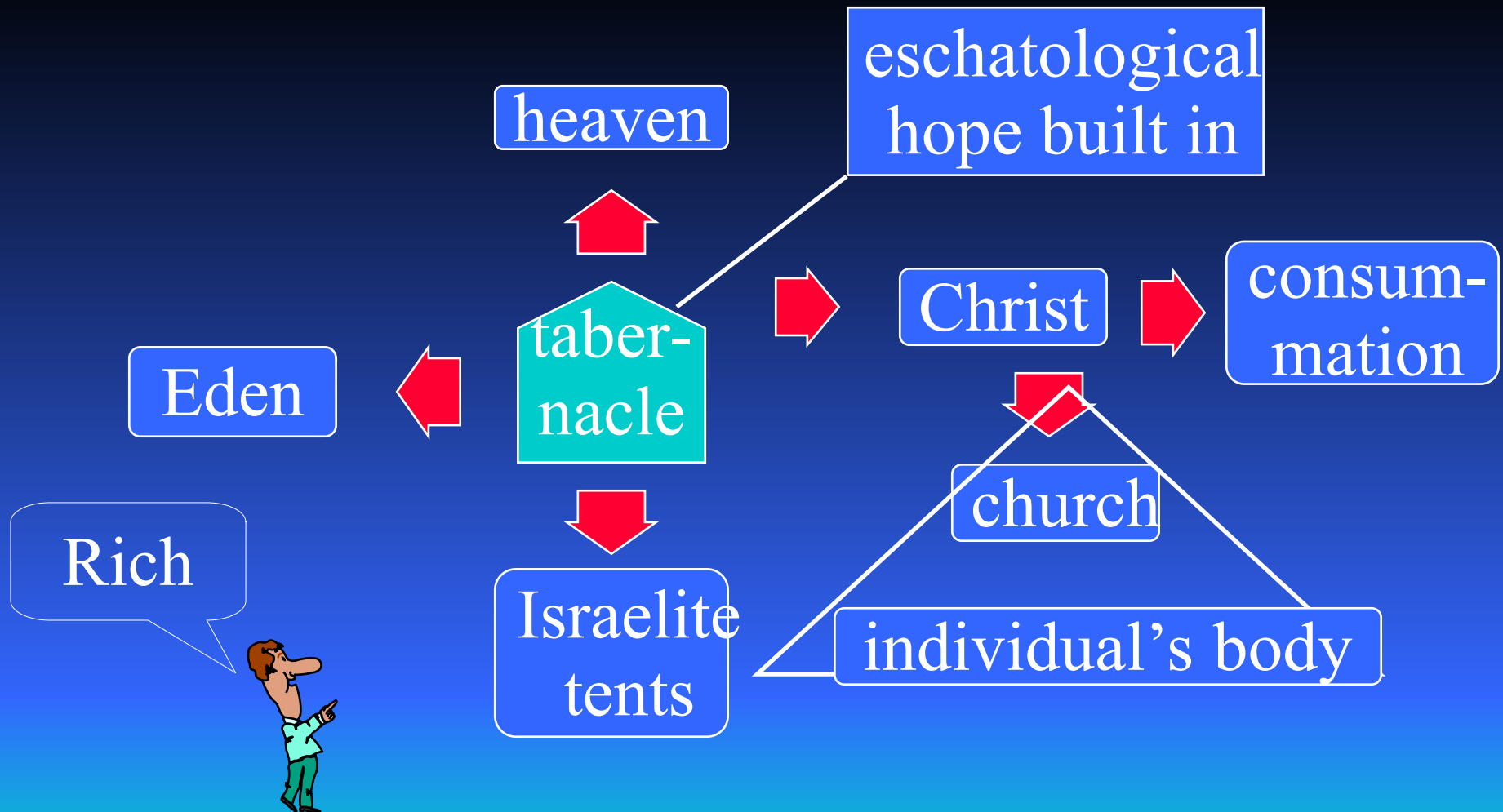
Sanity



## 4. Multifaceted Imagery



# Tabernacle as Multifaceted

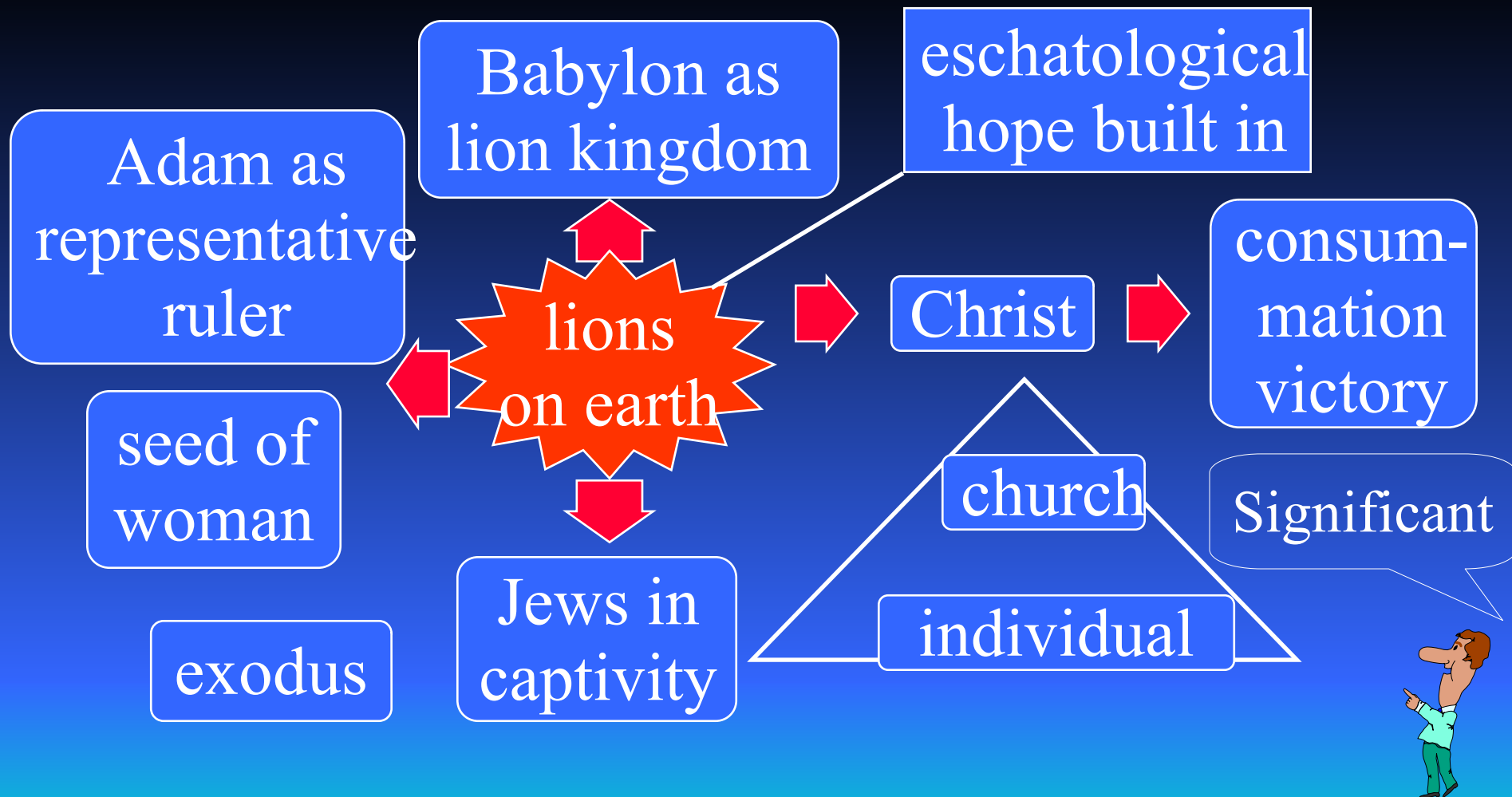




# David and Goliath as Multifaceted



# Daniel and Lions (Daniel 6)



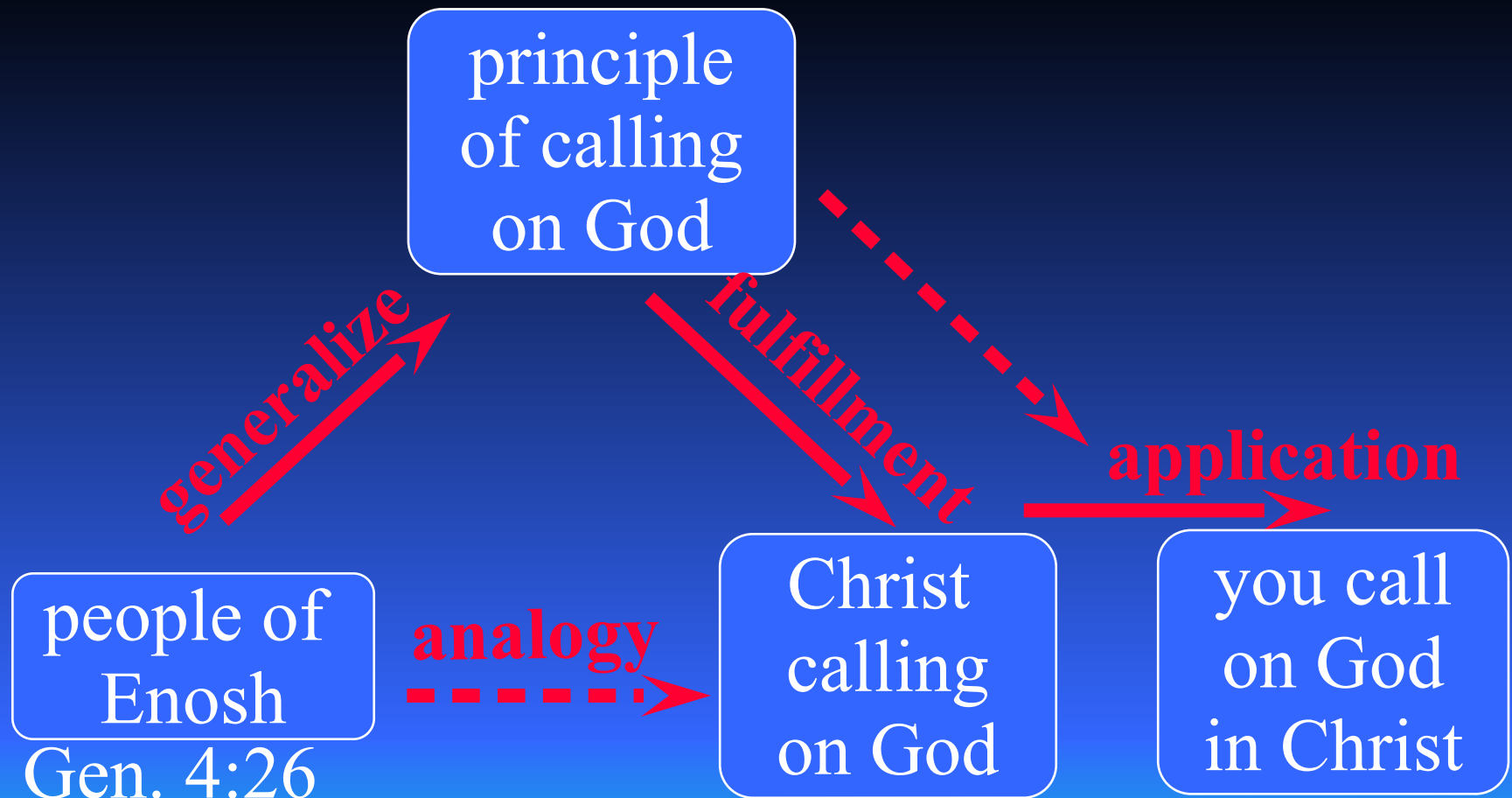
# Maxims on Typology

- 1-1 correspondences miss multifaceted relations.
- Note the superiority of the antitype.
- NT in relation to OT,  
not NT instead of OT.
- A sermon is not a lecture.

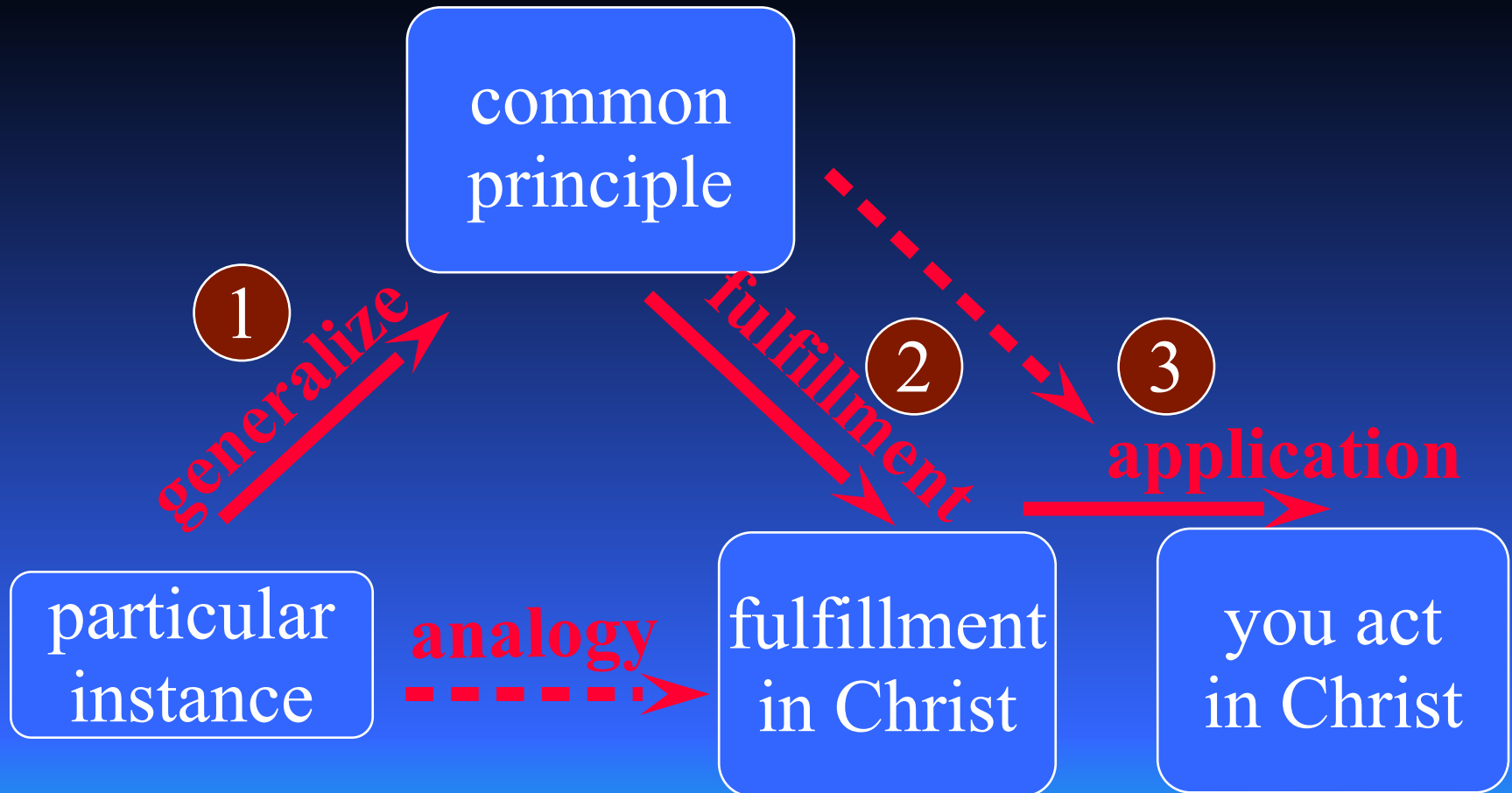
## 5. Principles for Interpreting Analogies



# An Example: Calling on God

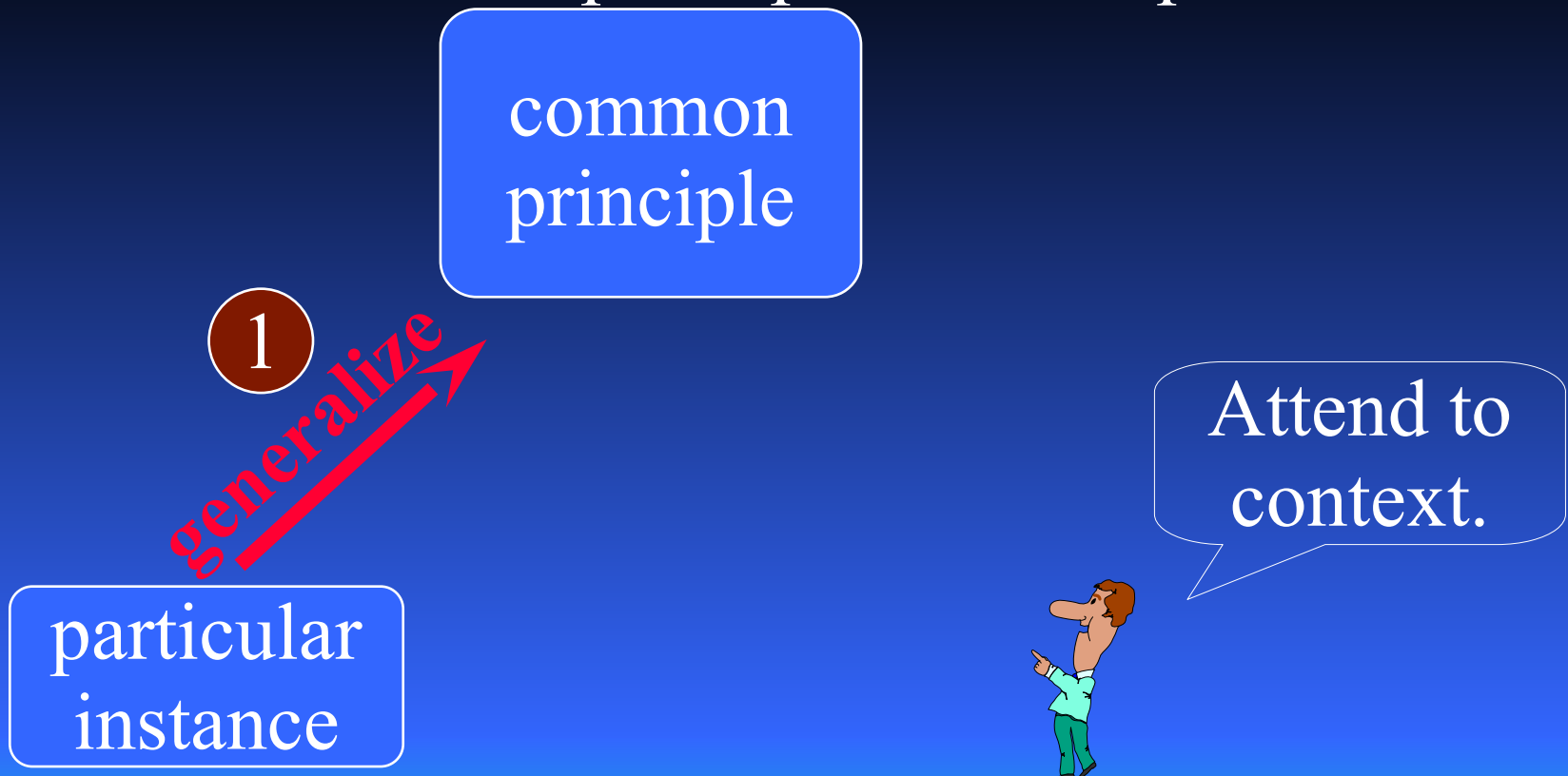


# Common Principle



# Step 1: What Was the Principle?

- What common principle did it express then?



# Illustration of Step 1 (Principle)

- What common principle did it express then?

seek  
vengeance  
or not

1

*generalize*

Lamech's  
vengeance  
Gen. 4:24

Attend to  
context.





# Step 2: Go Forward to Fulfillment

- What does it anticipate in Christ?

common  
principle



2

Christ's  
fulfillment

God's plan  
develops.



# Illustration of Step 2: Fulfillment

- What does it anticipate in Christ?

seek  
vengeance  
or not

2

fulfillment

Phil 2:8;  
1Pet 2:23

Christ leaves  
vengeance  
to God

God's plan  
develops.



## Step 3: Apply to Us

- How do we benefit?

Written  
for us!



3

**application**

fulfillment  
in Christ

you act  
in Christ

# Illustration of Step 3: Apply

- How do we benefit?

Written  
for us!



Rom 12:19  
**3 application**

Christ leaves  
vengeance  
to God

you leave  
vengeance  
to God

## Steps 4-8 for Analogy

- Step 4: What more added in Christ?
- Step 5: What more do you notice in the OT?
- Step 6: Back to creation and forward to consummation
- Step 7: Note the dissimilarities
- Step 8: How do Christ's benefits apply in the OT?