

Christ through Typology

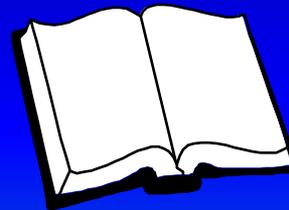
Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.

WOW, Oct. 13, 2004

The Challenge

The Old Testament
seems irrelevant to me.

It points to Christ.



A. Biblical Basis:
Christ Speaks about Himself

Pervasive Witness

all canon

totality

Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Main Theme of OT

summary

international
focus of Acts
is in the OT

46 and said to them, “Thus is it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Other Passages about Christocentricity

- 2 Cor. 1:20
- 1 Pet. 1:10-12
- John 5:39; 5:46-47; 8:56
- Matthew

B. The Principle: God's One Plan

God Plans History

Isaiah 46:9-10: ...

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me,

10 declaring the end from the beginning

and from ancient times things not yet done,

saying, “My counsel shall stand,

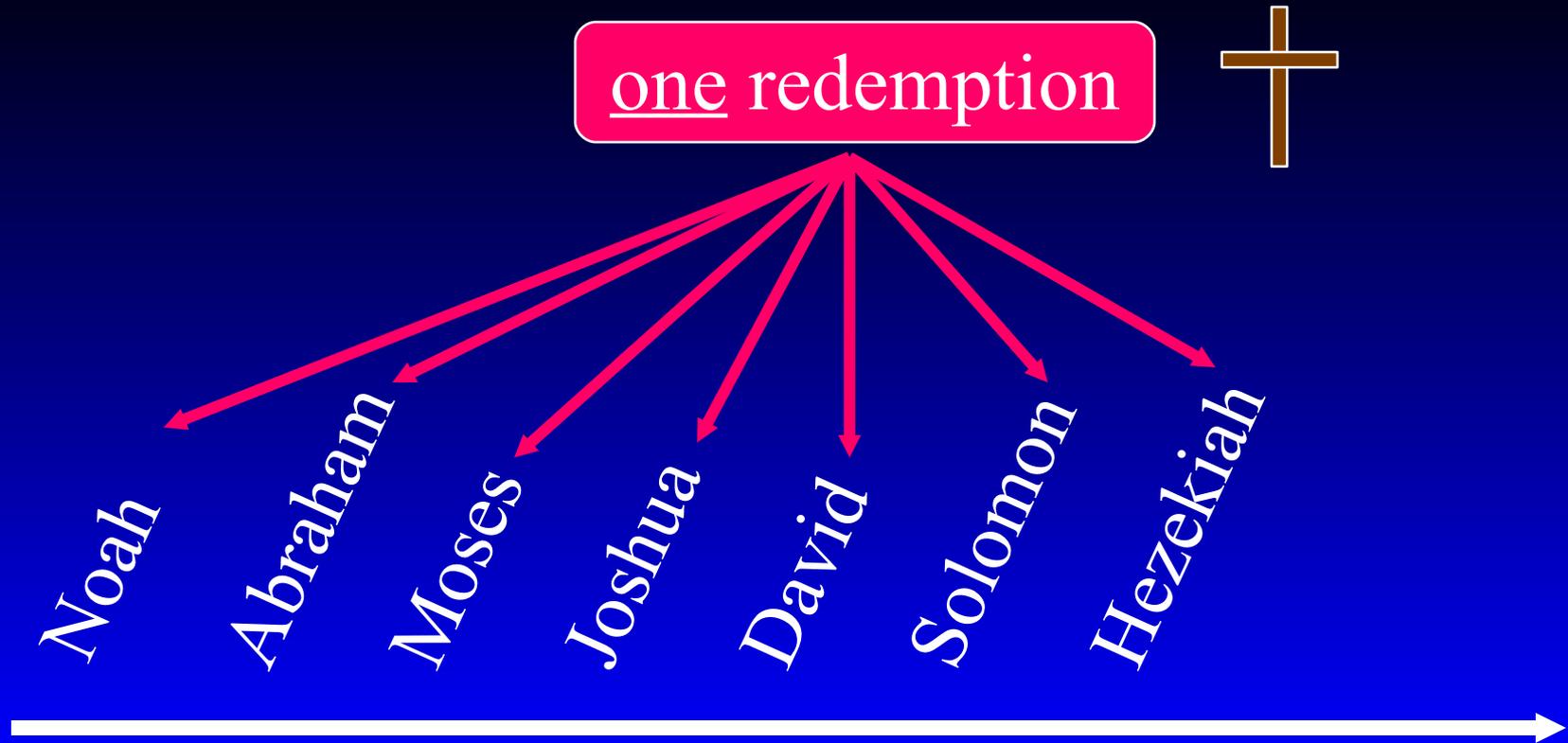
and I will accomplish all my purpose,”

One Way of Redemption Through Christ

Acts 4:12:

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Redemption through History



C. Types

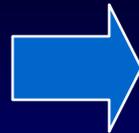
Types or Shadows

1 Cor. 10:6: Now these things took place as **examples** for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

1 Cor. 10:11: Now these things happened to them as an **example**, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Types

“example”
in 1 Cor. 10



typos

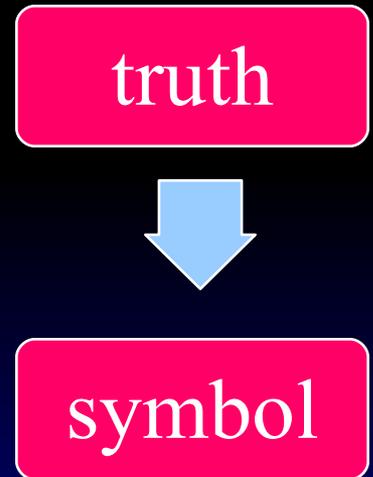


type

related to our
meanings
“printing type,”
“typeface” --
acting like a model

= a foreshadowing of
what God plans

Symbolism

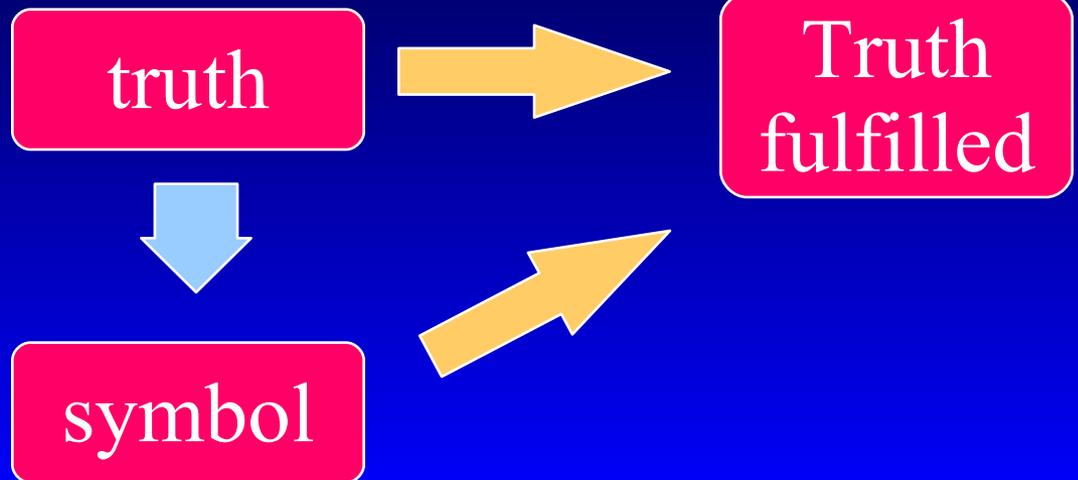
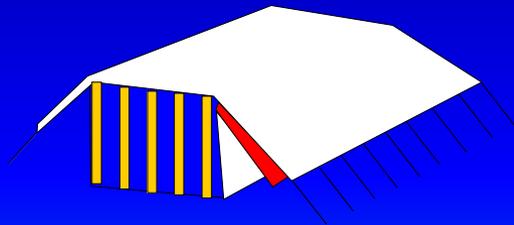


- “An earthly representation of divine truth.”
- Has meaning at the time.
- Illustration: manna symbolizes God’s daily care.

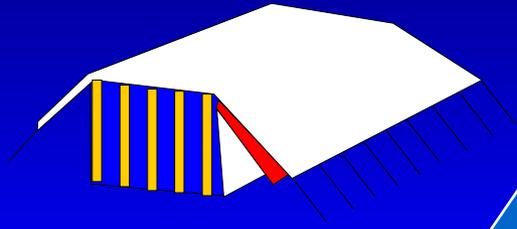
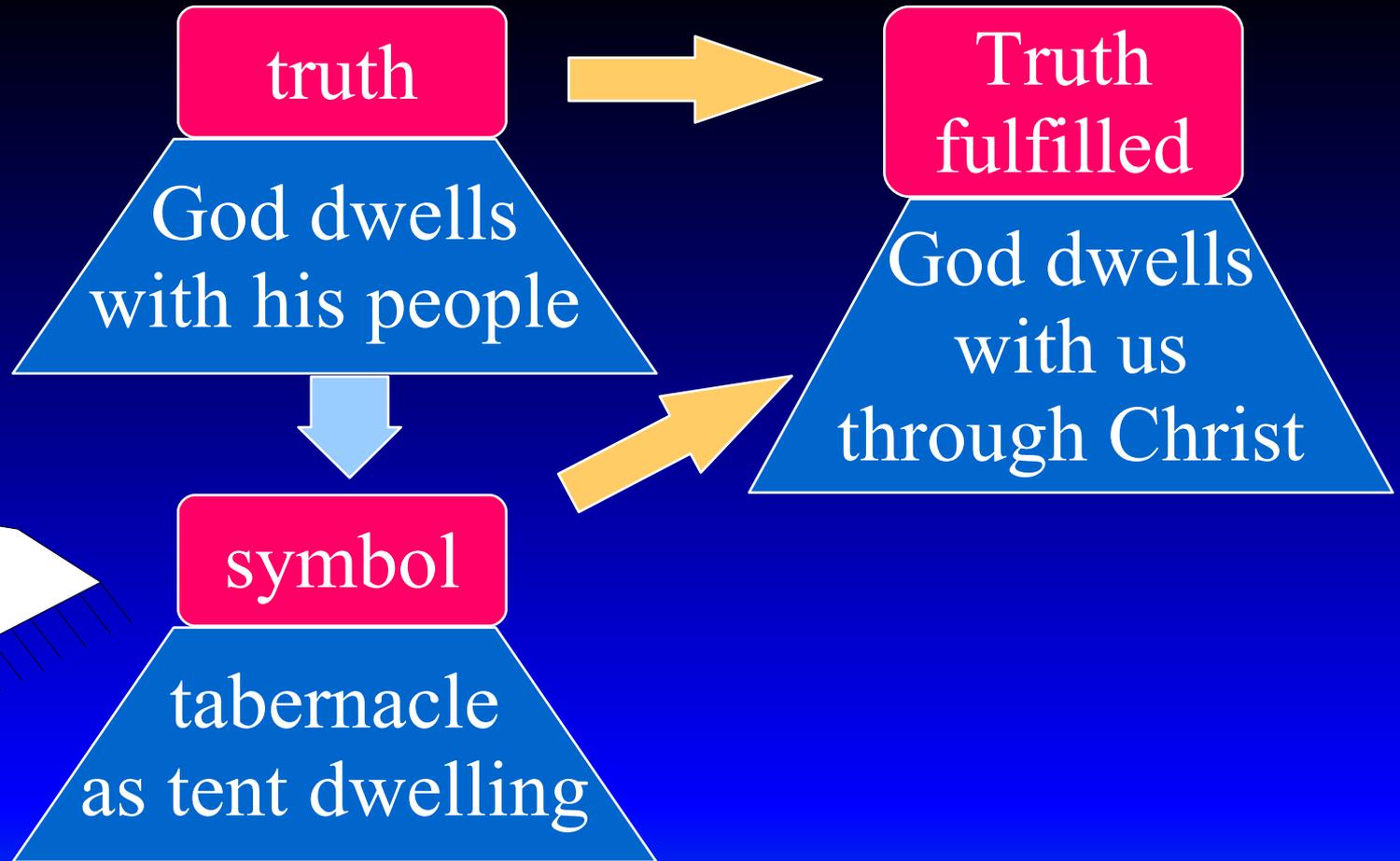
Definition of a Type

- “A symbol pointing to a fulfillment”

- Illustration:
the tabernacle



The Tabernacle as a Type



Terms in Typology

symbol
= “type”



Truth
fulfilled

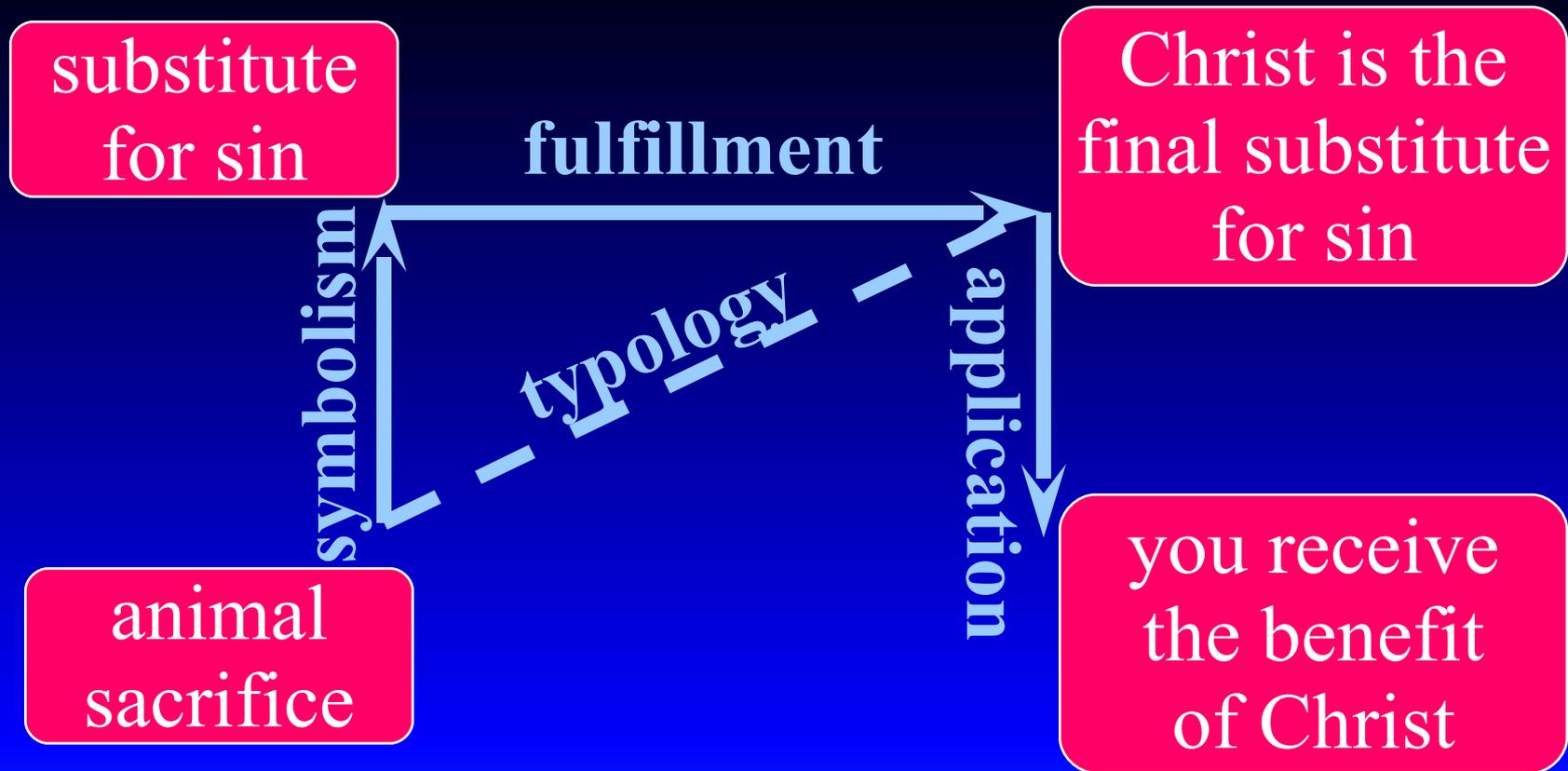
= “antitype”

= typical
relation

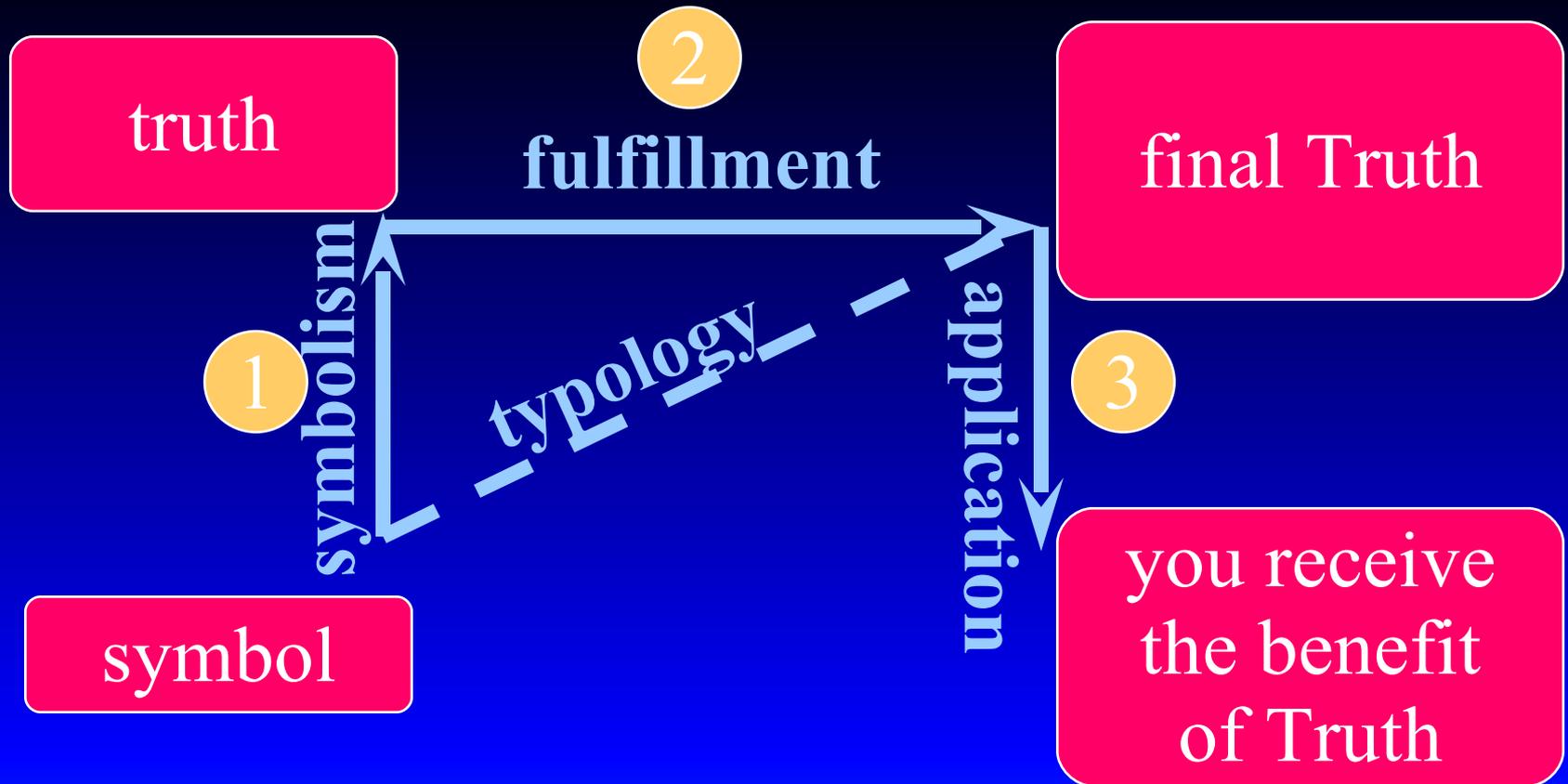
study of the whole = **typology**

D. Principles for Interpreting Types

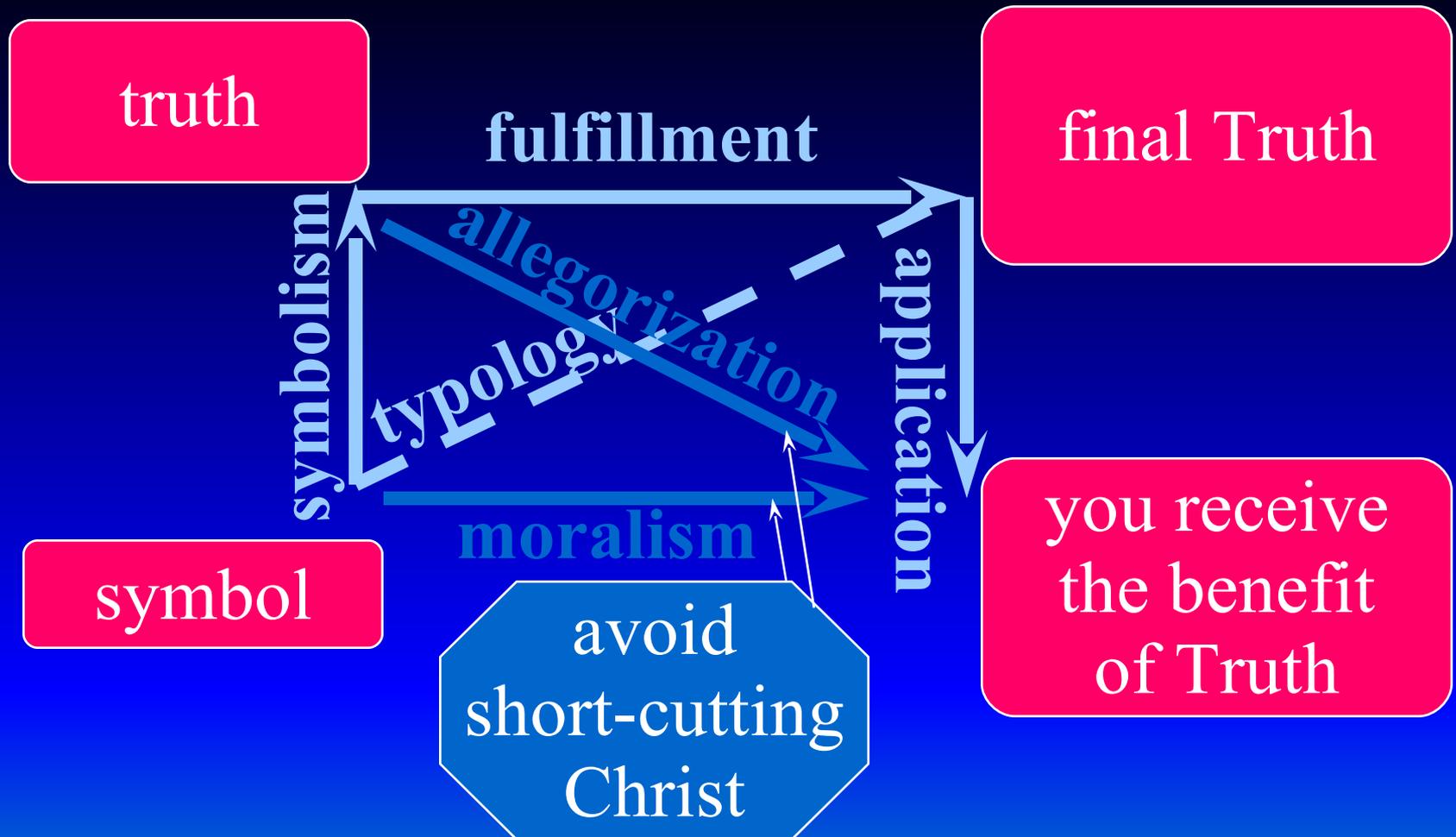
An Example: Sacrifices



Clowney's Triangle of Typology

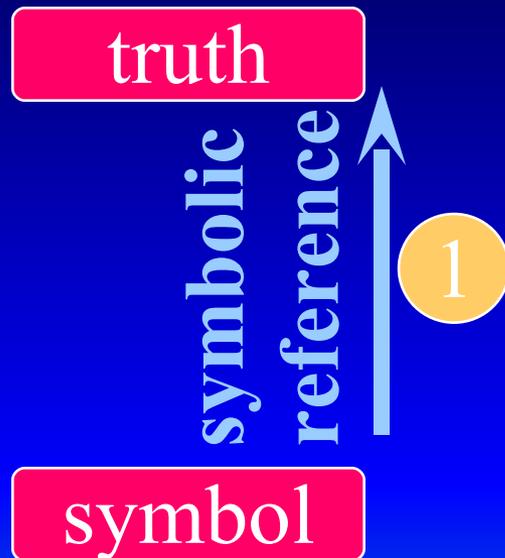


Avoiding the False Routes



Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

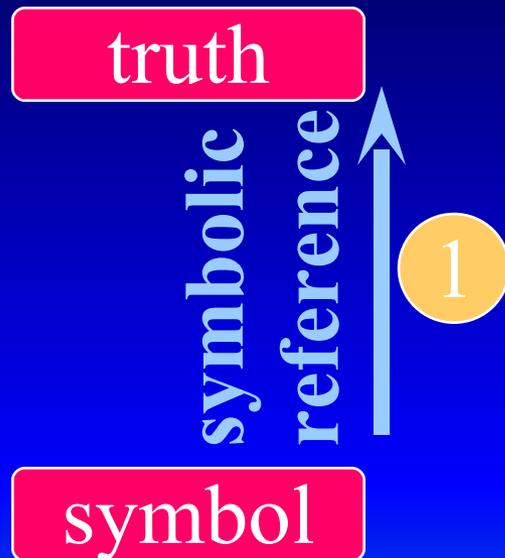
- What did it symbolize then?



Attend to
context.

Step 1: What Did It Mean Then?

- What did it symbolize then? What was the symbolic significance at the time when God first introduced this item?



Attend to
context.

Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?



Attend to
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Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then? What was the symbolic significance at the time when God first introduced this item?



Attend to context.

Step 2: Go Forward in History

- What does it anticipate?



Step 2: Go Forward in History

- What greater manifestation of truth did it embody and anticipate? (Look at context.)



Illustration of Step 2 (Fulfill)

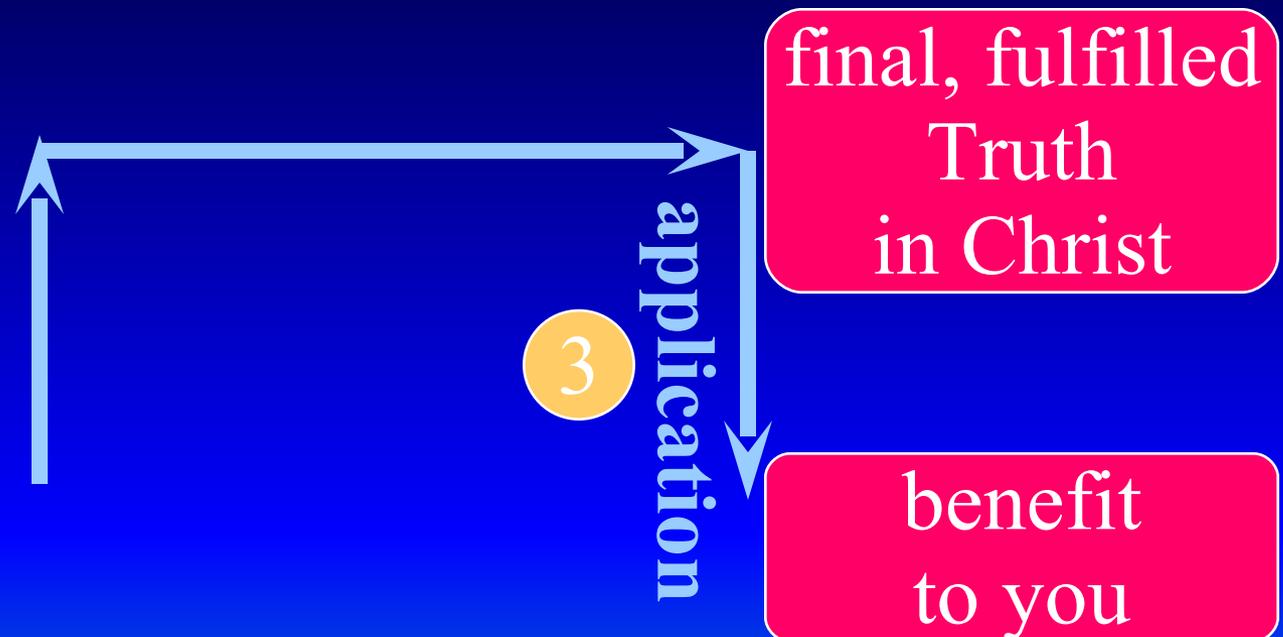
- What does it anticipate?



Step 3: Apply to Us

- How do we benefit?

Written
for us!



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- How do we benefit from participating in the fulfillment in union with Christ?

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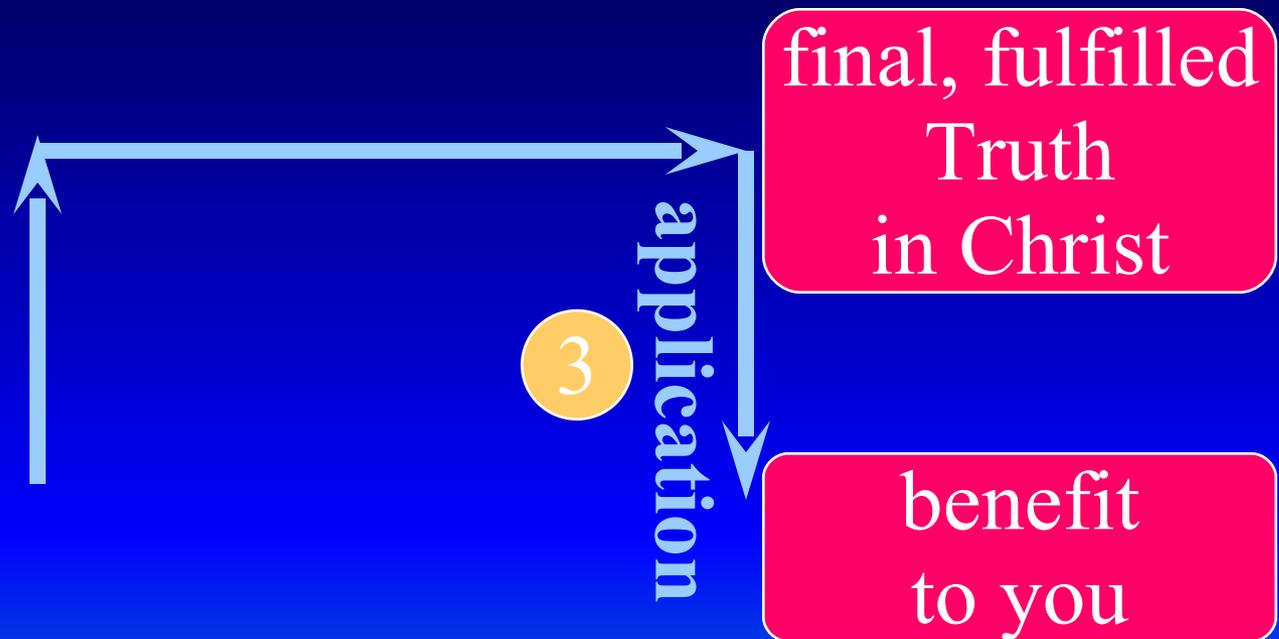


Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

- How do we benefit?

Written
for us!

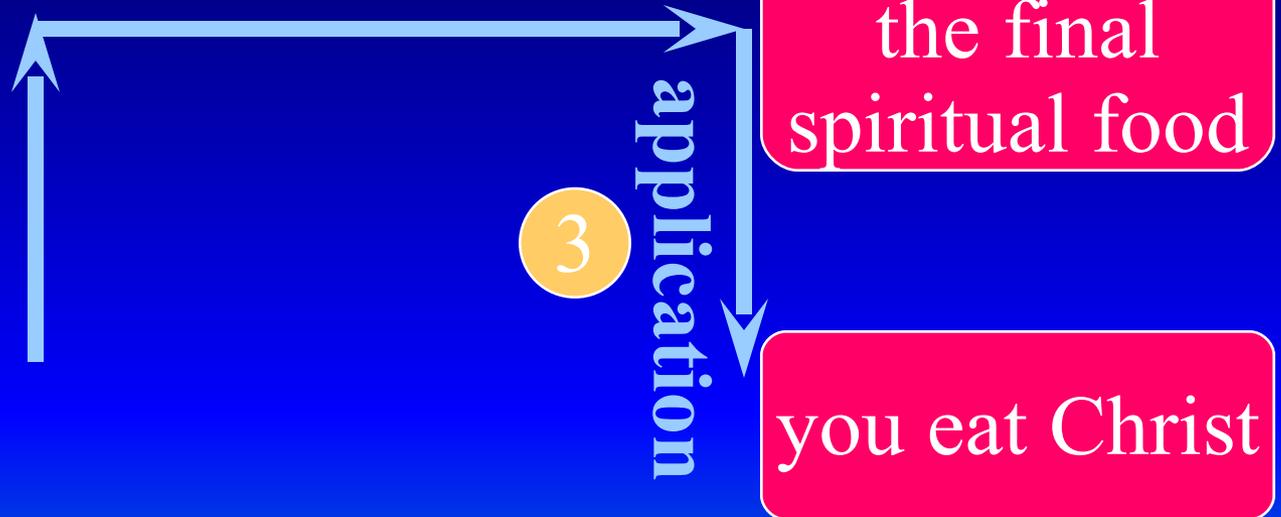
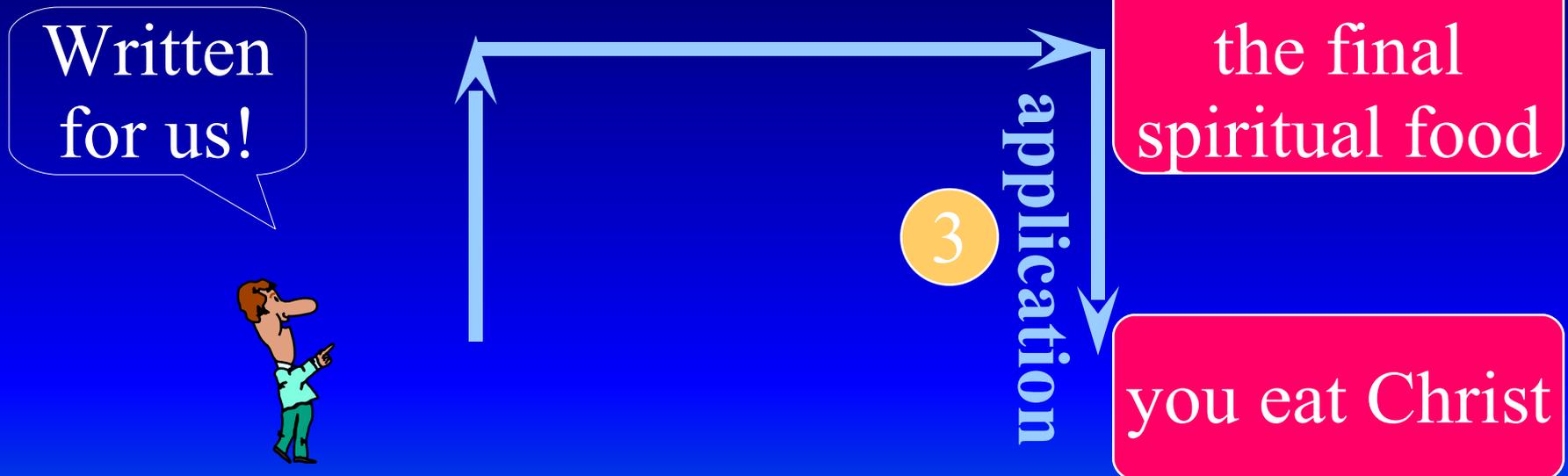


Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

- How do we benefit from participating in the fulfillment in union with Christ?



Step 4: How Does Fulfillment Illuminate the Earlier Stages?

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.

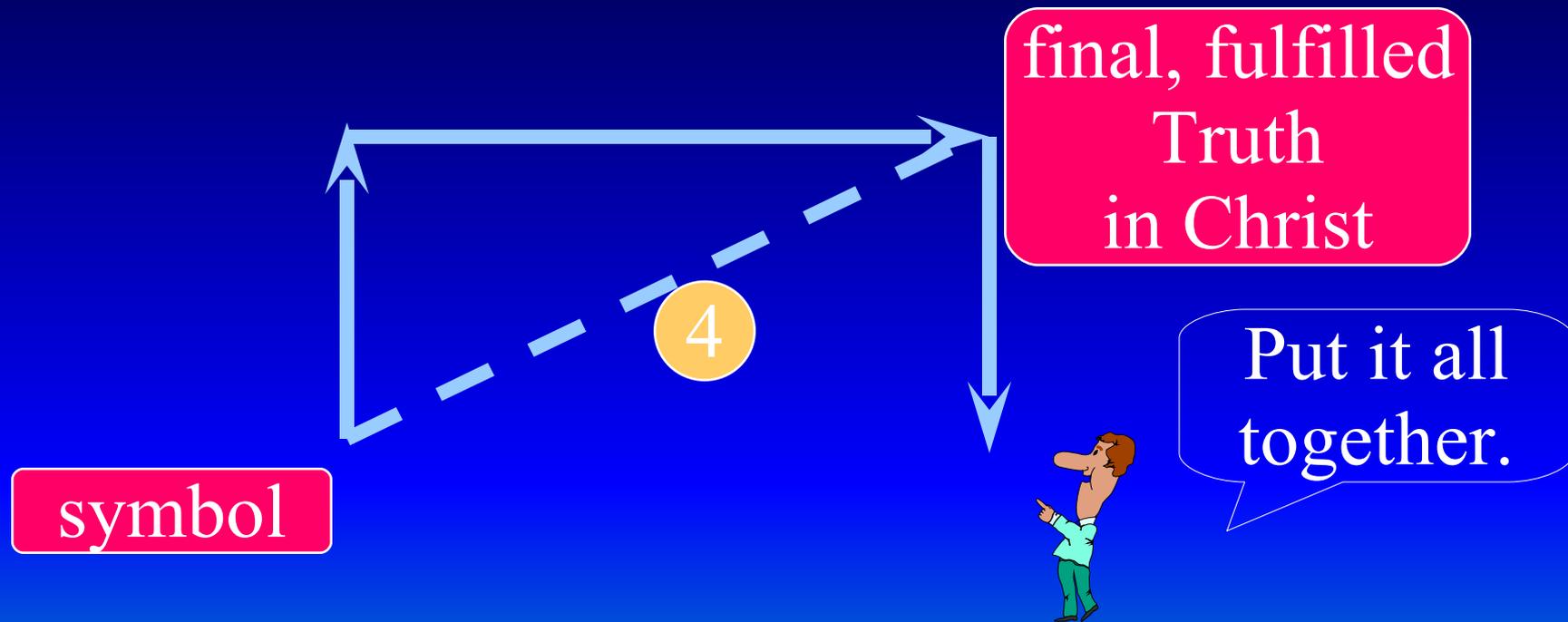
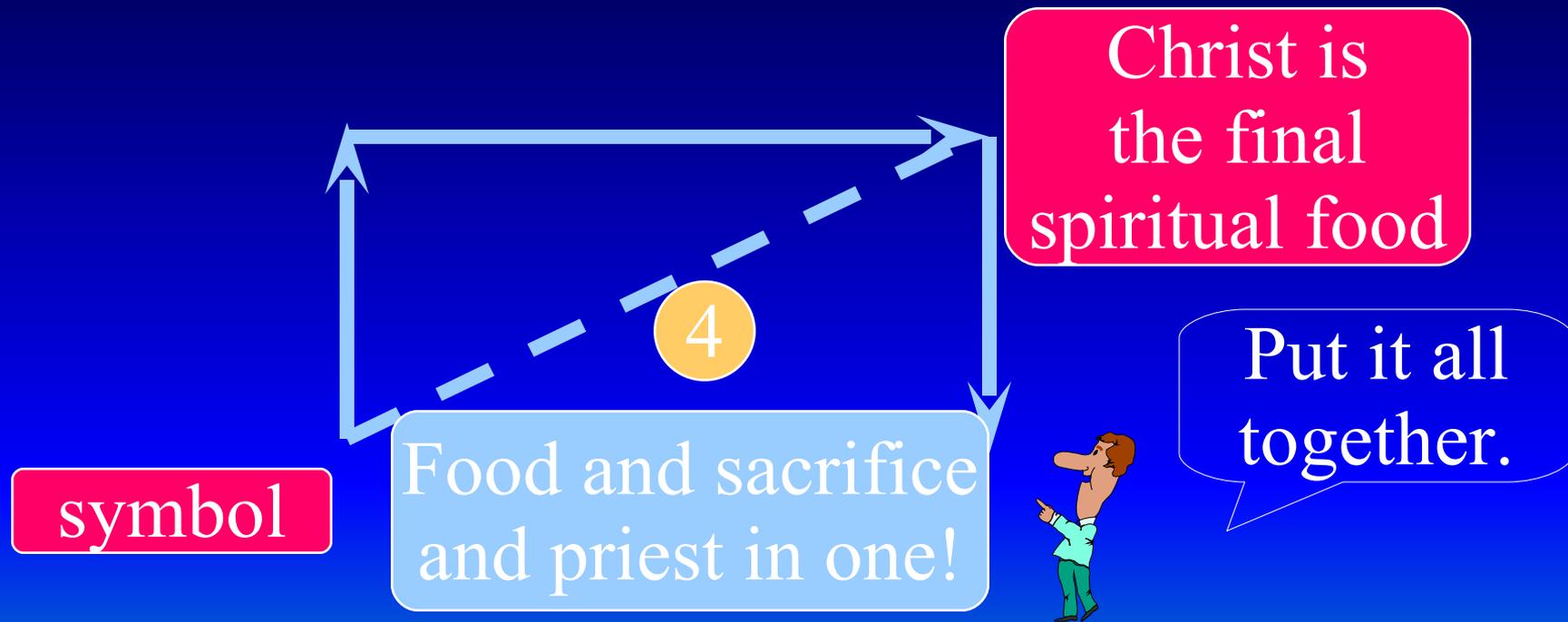


Illustration of Step 4 (More)

- Fulfillment illumines the earlier.



Step 5: Deepen the Earlier Stage

- More significance in the original?

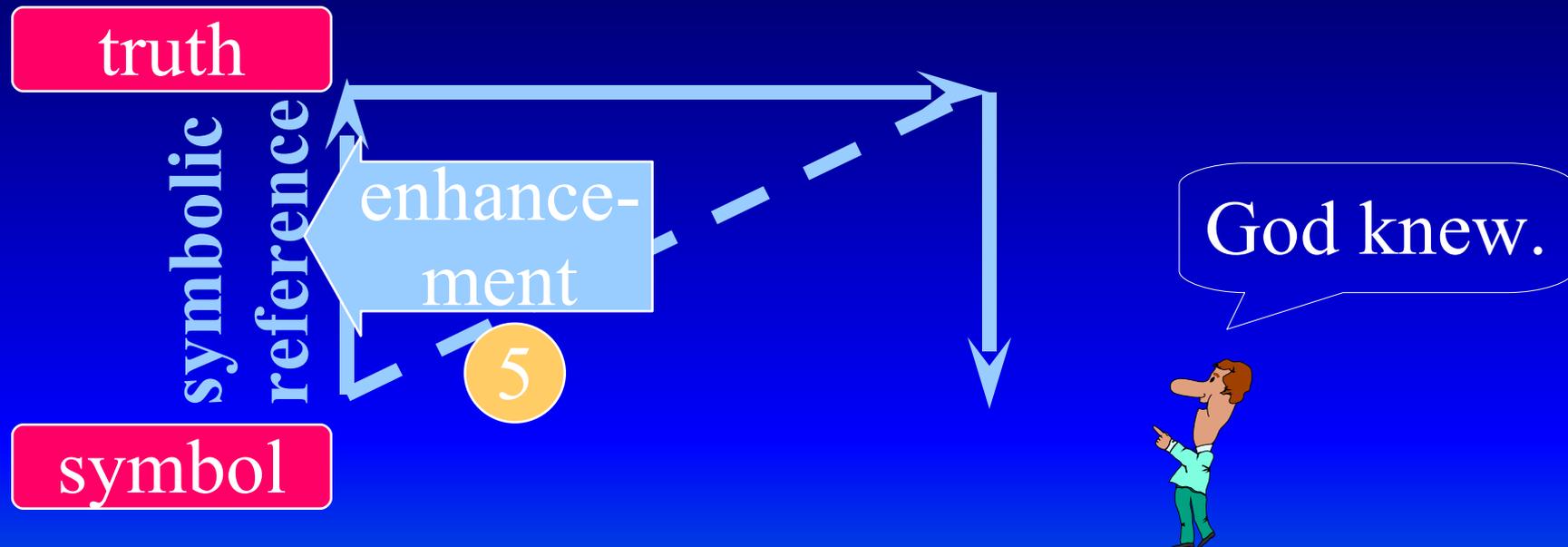
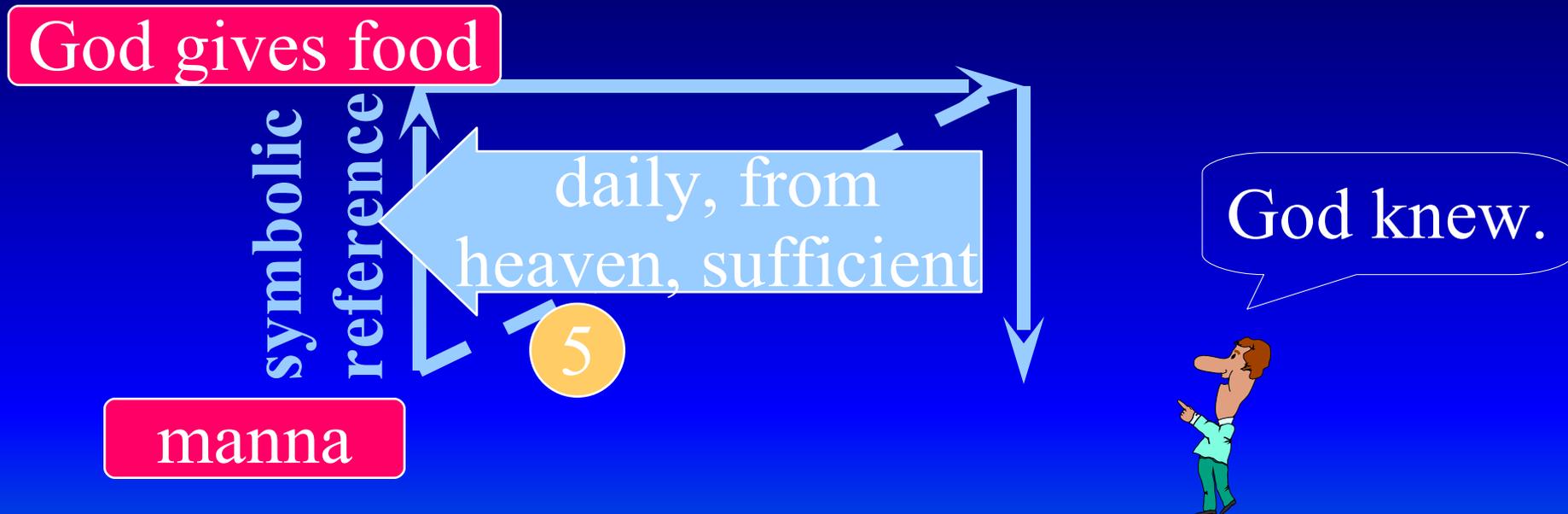


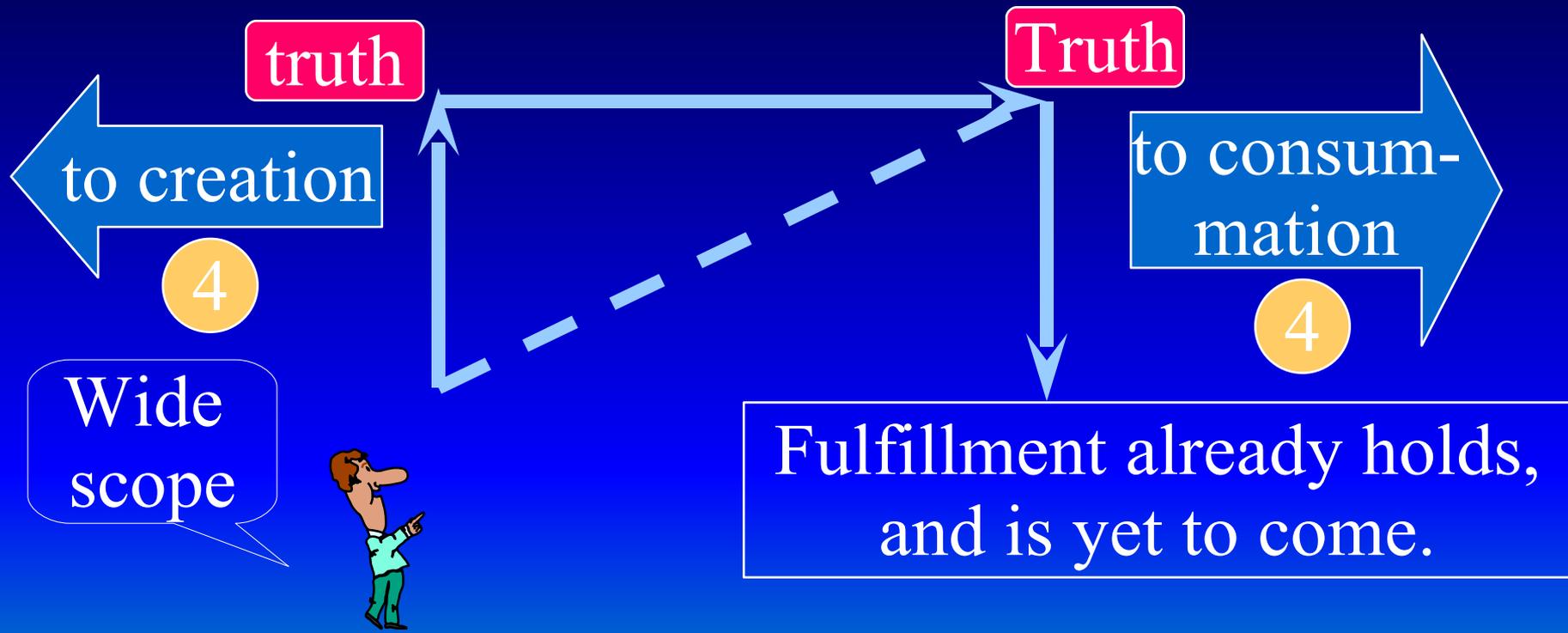
Illustration of Step 5 (Deepen)

- More significance in the original?



Step 4: Trace Beginning and End

- Trace from creation to consummation.



Step 4: Trace Beginning and End

- Trace the truth back to creation and forward to consummation.

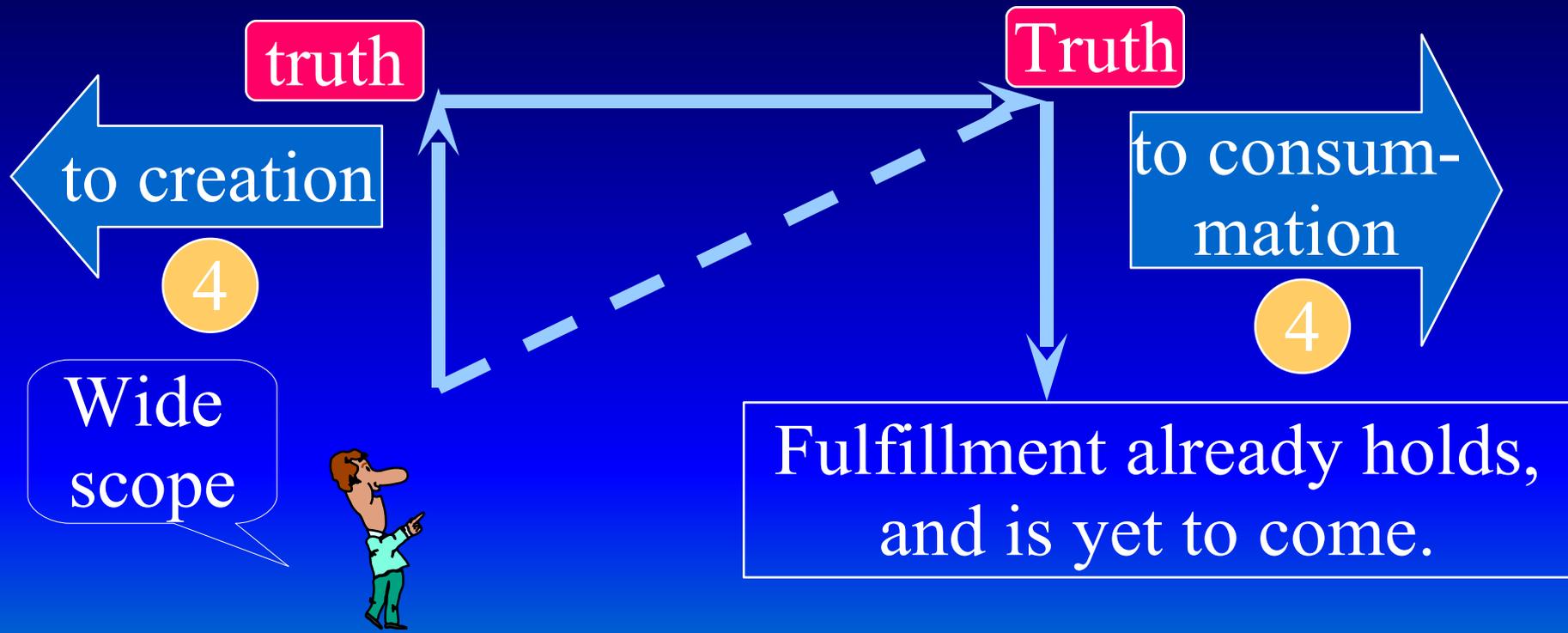


Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.

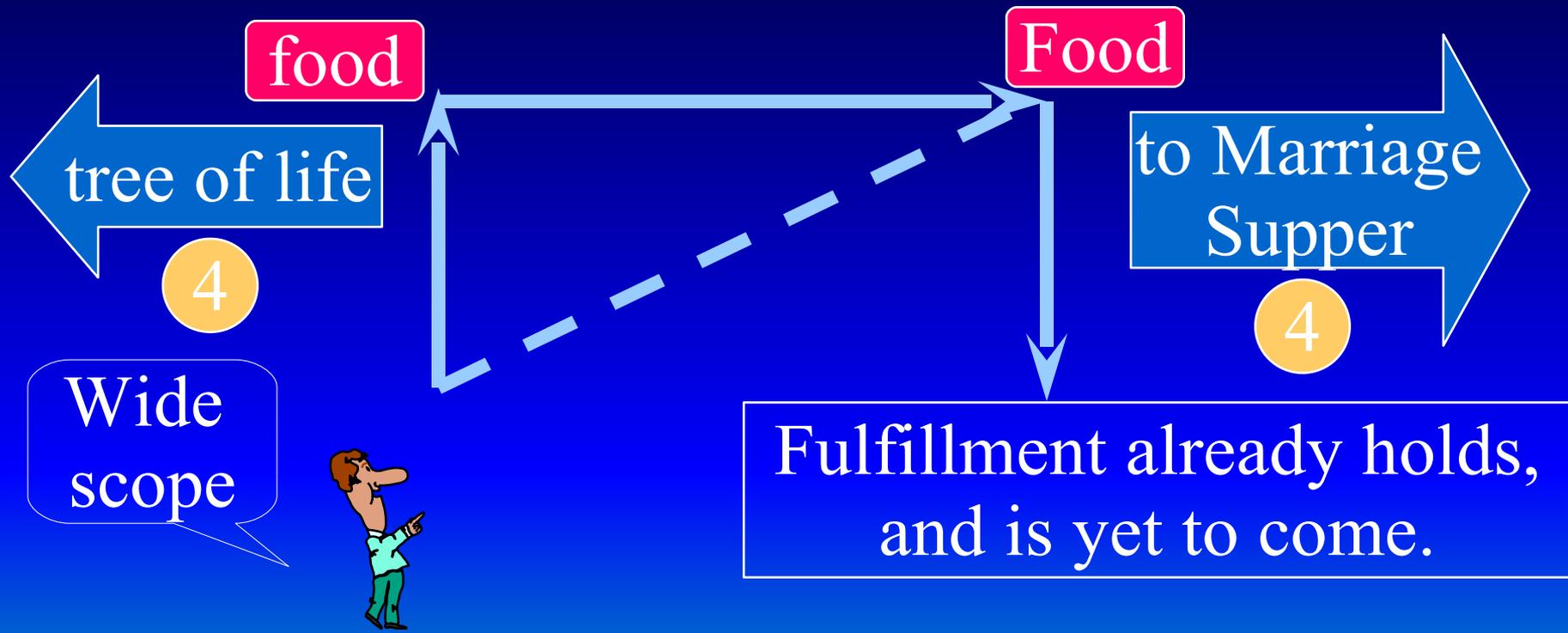
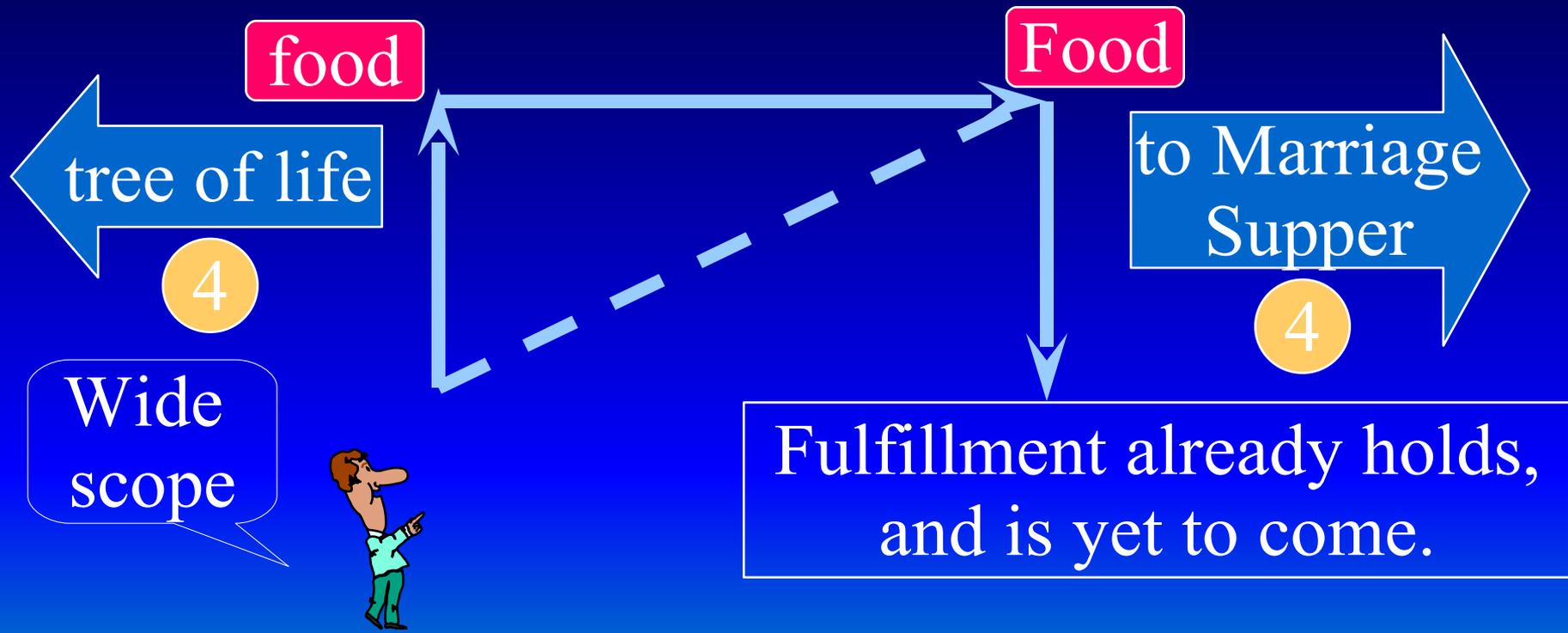


Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

- Trace the truth back to creation and forward to consummation.



Step 5: Distinctiveness

- Note distinctiveness of each epoch.



Step 5: Distinctiveness

- Reflect on the overall distinctiveness of each epoch in its embodiment of the truth.



Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.

Bread for nation
in wilderness/world

dissimilarities

Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Reflect on the overall distinctiveness of each epoch in its embodiment of the truth.

Bread for nation
in wilderness/world

dissimilarities

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



Limits of Typology

- Do not make new doctrine or predictions.
- Because:
 - In NT, Christ is not hidden but revealed!
(We are not gnostics.)
 - The shadow, as shadow, is less full than its fulfillment.
 - One needs context to establish and control the directions of analogy.



Sanity

E. *An Example*

Illustration of Step 1 (Truth)

- What did it symbolize then?

God protects and
rewards his faithful

symbolic
reference

1

Daniel



Attend to
context.

Illustration of Step 2 (Fulfill)

- What does it anticipate?

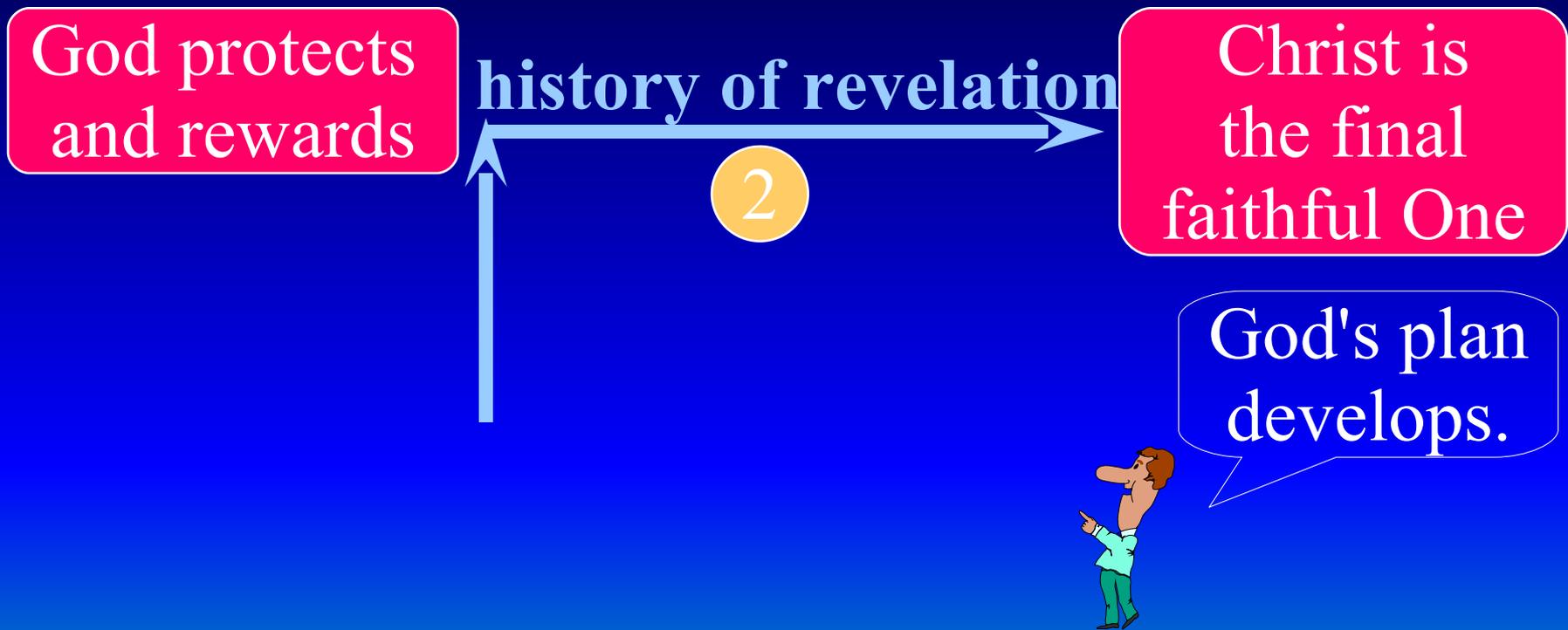


Illustration of Step 3 (Apply)

- How do we benefit?

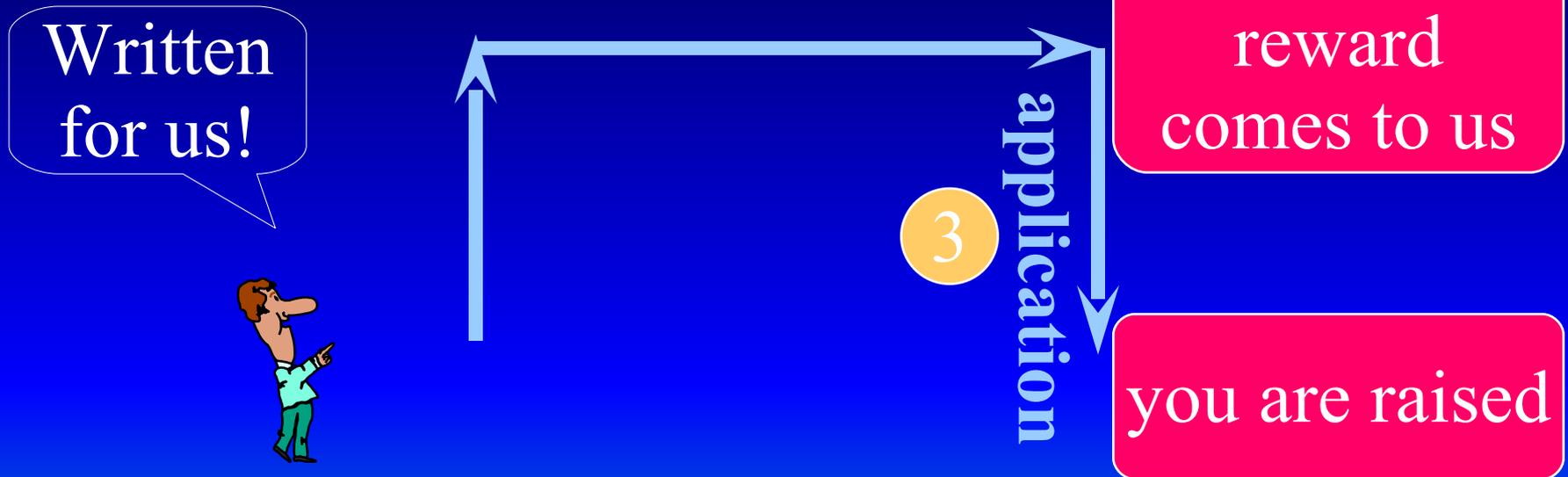


Illustration of Step 4 (Beginning and End)

- Trace from creation to consummation.

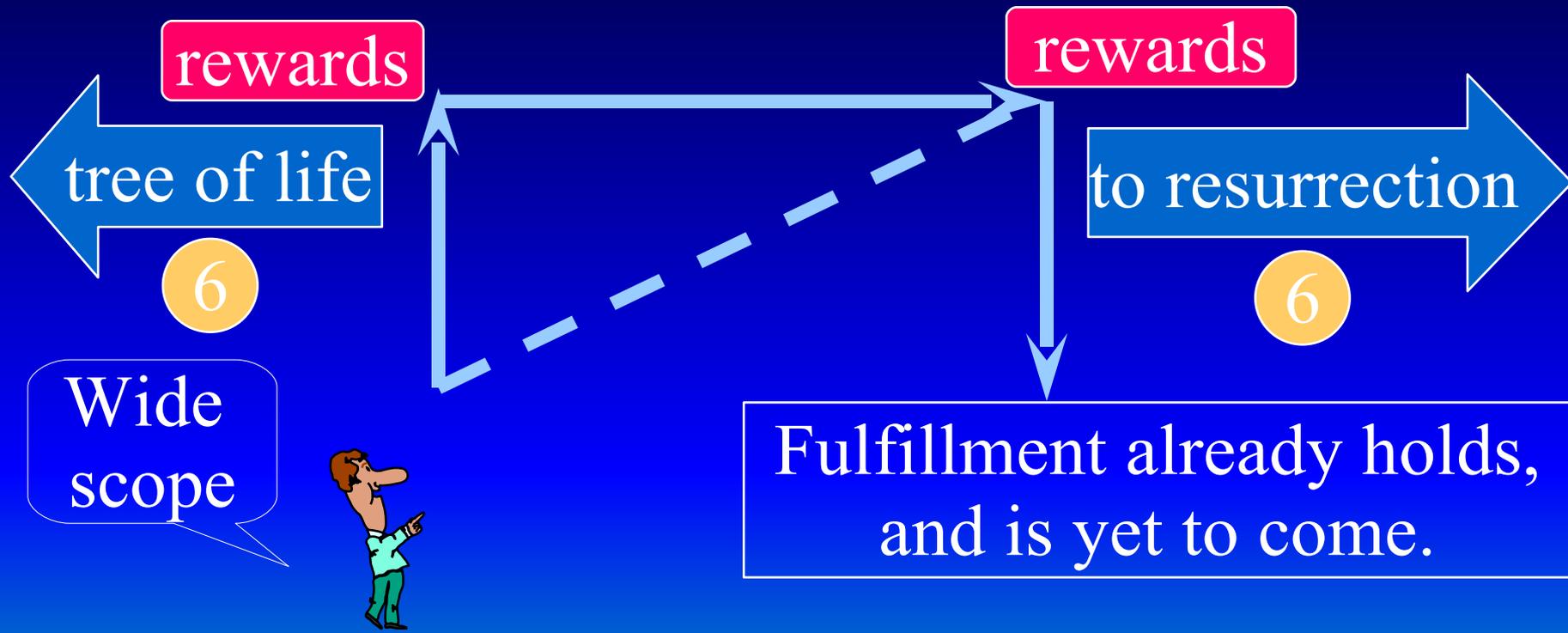


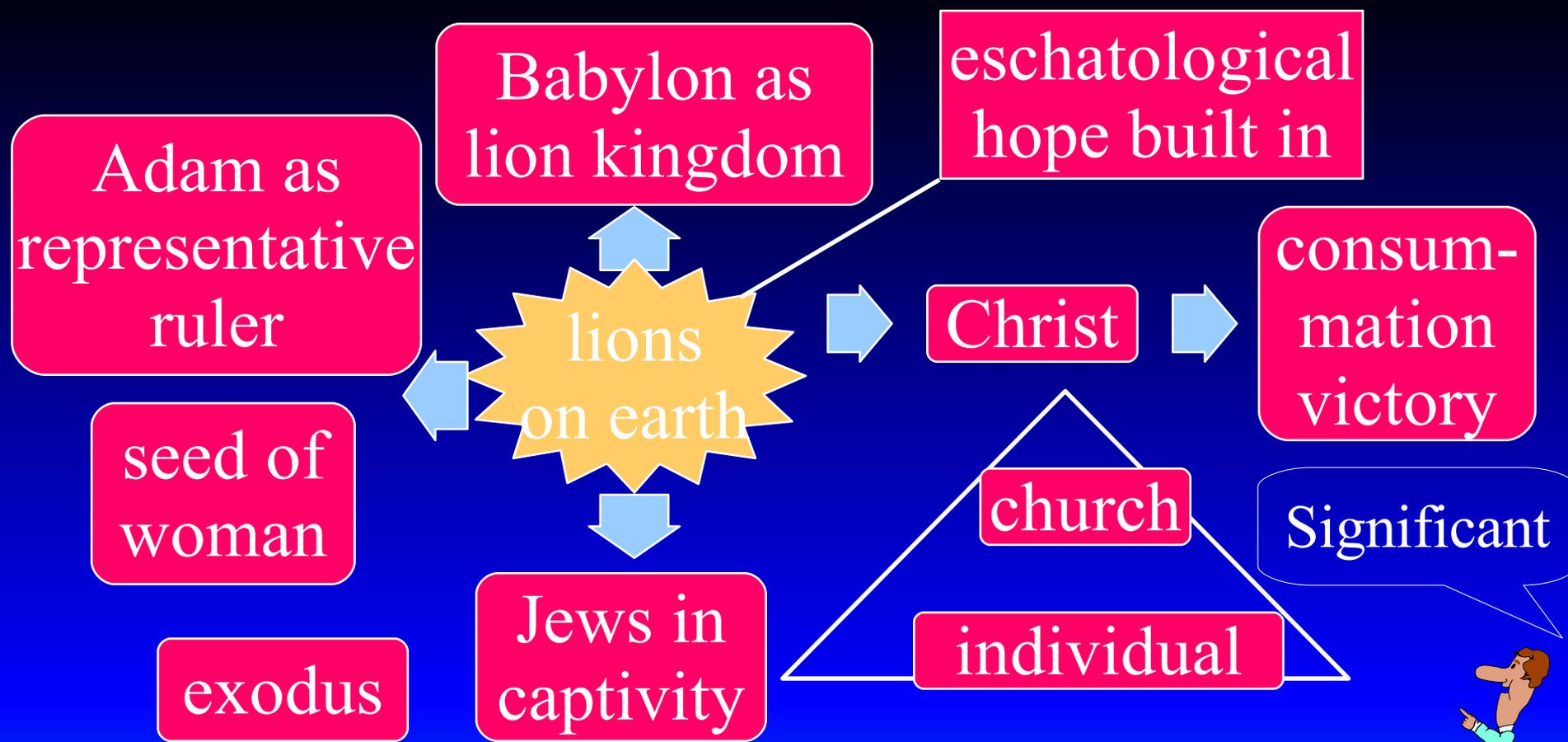
Illustration of Step 5 (Distinct)

- Distinctiveness of each epoch.

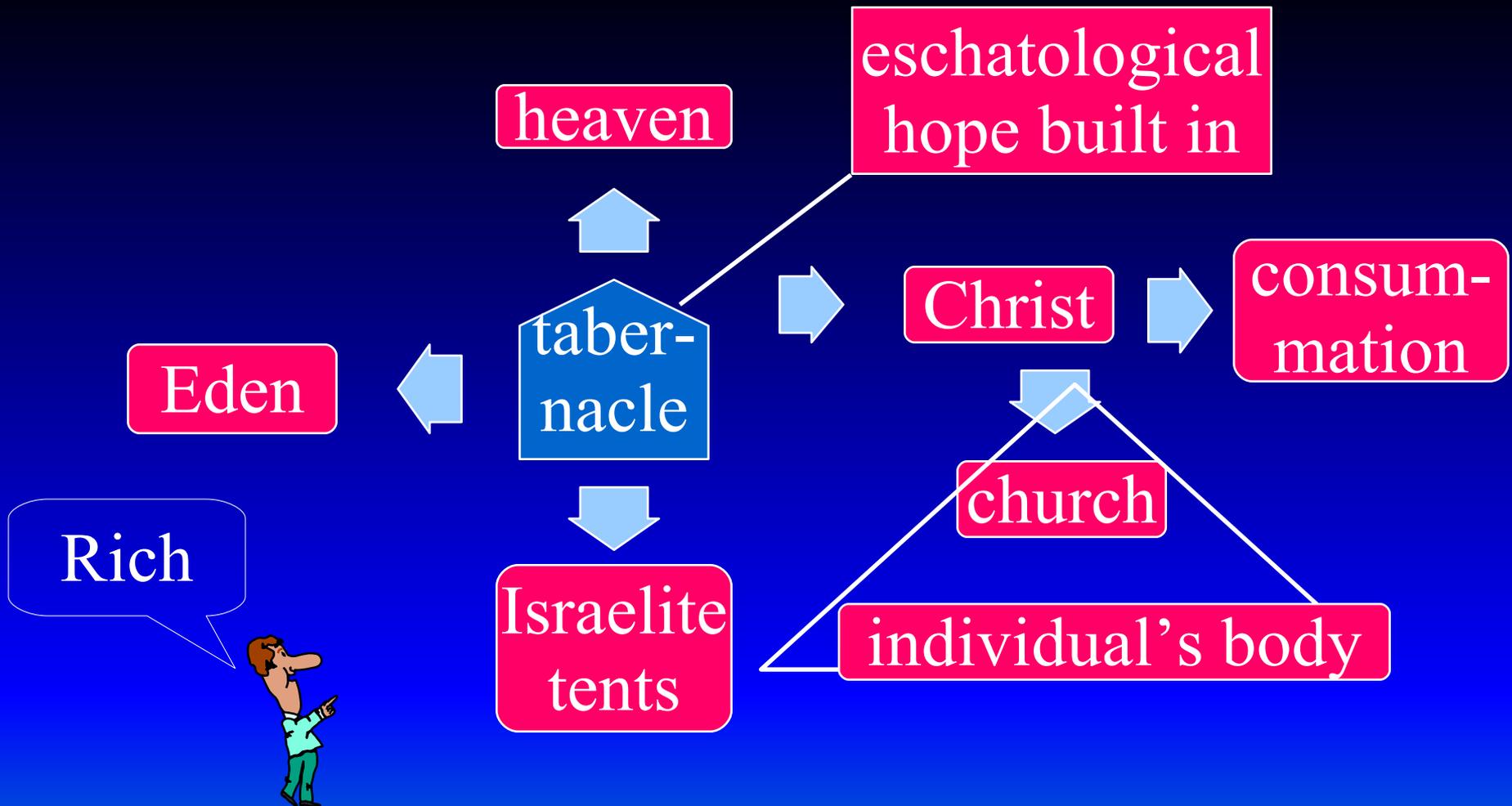


F. Multifaceted Imagery

Daniel and Lions (Daniel 6)



Tabernacle as Multifaceted



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.

Maxims on Typology

- 1-1 line-ups of type and antitype may miss multifaceted relations.
- Note the superiority of the antitype and the insufficiency of the type.
- Allegorization and forced typology preach the NT instead of the OT, rather than NT in relation to the OT.
- Do not turn a sermon into a biblical-theological lecture.

Bibliography of Typology

- Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*
- Fairbairn, Patrick. *The Typology of Scripture* (classic).
- Poythress, Vern S. *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses*

David and Goliath as Multifaceted

