

B. Allegory in the Old and New Testaments

(This is a very short study in a field of considerable interest. I will note some of the historical materials behind the idea and discuss how it is implemented. A more complete study will take the student into the history of interpretation, etc., and we will not pretend this study is that. Our purpose in this segment of material is to acknowledge how these things fit and to ask ourselves the degree to which the New Testament goes in having an allegorical interpretation of the Old Testament)

1. Definition:

- a. An allegory is an extended metaphor
- b. As such it is a means of communication by an extended implicit comparison
- c. It thereby seeks to explain by a transferal of ideas without specification..in most cases.

2. How is allegory identified?

- a. The narrow view (!)
 - (1) particular statements
 - (2) textual absurdities
 - (3) extended use
- b. The broader view
 - (1) includes all of the above and adds resemblance..
 - (2) uses typology (implied)
 - (3) mystery explanation (rationalization)

c. Observation:

The narrow view is too restrictive. The broader view tends to become too speculative. The wise student (whoever that is) will combine the best of both aspects. (And this is sufficiently vague to allow us to continue)

3. Some Old Testament examples

a. Explicit:

- (1) Judges 9:7-21
- (2) 2 Samuel 12:1-14
- (3) Ezekiel 17:1-10 (parable)

There are many others, of course!

b. Implicit:

- (1) measurements, numbers, names
- (2) kingdom ideals
- (3) historical accounts (Esther)
- (4) poetic conceits (Song of Solomon)