

In what respects then did Adam typify the Lord Jesus Christ? Doubtless we may rightly trace the analogy between these two in many particulars. Adam was, for example, a type of Christ in his supernatural origin. This is intimated by the evangelist Luke, who, in his genealogy of Christ, calls Adam "the son of God." Unlike all other men, both the first and the second Adam owed their existence directly to the immediate power of God. The first Adam, formed, as to his body, of the dust of the earth by the breath of God, "became a living soul"; the second Adam, conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, became "a life-giving spirit." So also, Adam was a type of Him that was to come, in his headship over the earth. As Adam, in the first creation, was made its lord and head, so is Christ the Head of the new creation, both in its present elementary state, and conspicuously in "the new heavens and the new earth," that "habitable earth to come whereof we speak." (Heb. ii. 5 : Greek). This is distinctly intimated in that apostolic comment in Heb. ii., on the second Psalm, which psalm was no doubt originally written concerning Adam and the honor given him, but is justly cited by the writer of that epistle as pertinent to the supreme Headship of Christ. So also, did space permit, numerous other typical resemblances between Adam and the Lord Jesus might be mentioned. But in such resemblances and correspondences as these referred to, we do not reach the bottom of the mystery. All such analogies rest upon a likeness, far more inward, deep and essential, in which alone these find their explanation, and the reason of their existence. And it is this inward and essential analogy, which, beyond doubt, was before the mind of Paul when he wrote the fifth chapter of the epistle to the Romans, and to that we shall confine our attention in the present essay.

It is the special thought of Paul, in the passage cited, that Adam was, pre-eminently and fundamentally, a type of Christ, in respect of the relation which he sustained to the human race. So also we are taught in several other passages of Scripture, as here, that Adam bore precisely the same relation to the human race, who are all his seed by nature, that Christ sustains to His believing people, who are His seed, supernaturally, by grace. This relation is elsewhere expressed in Scripture by the words,