

Parallel Processing

[Kinsman-redeemers]

Boaz stepping up to be the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth...

Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. ...

Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.

Ruth 4:11-12

Remember the story of Tamar and Judah? Tamar married Judah’s son, who died, but Judah did not want to lose any more sons even though the law was clear on this (Deut. 5:25-27). He would not let another of his sons become a kinsman-redeemer. Tamar tricked Judah and had a son by him.

Interesting that the elders make this comparison – both related to the kinsman-redeemer, but Perez’ birth was not “official”.

Also note that genealogical credit is given to Boaz, not Ruth’s dead husband.

Pearls from the Prophets

Picking the Pearls

Pearls from Ezekiel Chapter 1 - Parallel

[Epiphanies – visions of God]

- **Jacob saw God at Peniel and his life was changed. He was no longer known as Jacob, but from then on his name was Israel.**
- **Moses went up on Mount Sinai and communed with God face-to-face. This was an experience that changed his countenance and shaped his life. Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord in the sanctuary, and his entire ministry was filled with the beauty of the Lord's holiness.**
- **Paul saw the risen and glorified Redeemer on the Damascus road and was blinded temporarily. This encounter transformed Paul from the great persecutor of the church to one of its greatest preachers.**
 [also his view of the third heaven...]
- **John saw visions of the glorious unfolding of God's program for Christ, the church, and all the redeemed.**
- **In the midst of exile, Ezekiel saw visions of the glory of the Lord of Israel. This revelation shaped his life and ministry from that time forward.**

Mark Rooker

Parallel Processing

From Disappointment to Glory

Since the thirtieth year
was to mark Ezekiel's inauguration into the priesthood,
one can only imagine the disappointment he must have felt.

In the year he was to carry out his priestly functions,
he sat as a captive in Babylon.

Mark Rooker

Ezekiel became one of the greatest prophets of the exile period.

In about Joseph's thirtieth year
he sat as a captive in an Egyptian prison,
filled with disappointment
about the fulfillment of his dreams
(but he had great faith in God's providence).

from PDE

Joseph became the Premier in Egypt, saved the nation, and saved his family.

Consider also that Jesus, in about His 30th year, was rejected and crucified –
then was resurrected in glory.

Pearls from the Prophets

Picking the Pearls

Parallel from Ezekiel Chapter 3

The book of Ezekiel uses the title “son of man” more than any other Bible book.

God calls the prophet Ezekiel “son of man” ninety-three times.

And notice the characteristics that the ministries of Ezekiel and Jesus share.

- **Both were called to ministry at age 30.**
- **Both were God’s messenger.**
- **Both found the people unresponsive.**
- **Both came to give a message anyway.**
- **Both brought a message of judgment.**
- **Great personal cost came to both in giving the message.**
- **And both gave what was finally a message of redemption.**

Mark Dever

Parallel Processing

Cheating the Cheaters

**Jacob, who fooled his near-blind father, Isaac, in a tent,
was fooled in a tent when he was blind on wine, blinded by night,
blinded by lust, and blindly in love.**

**Jacob, who by the most calculating stealth stole what could not be returned,
was tricked into a marriage that could not be undone. ...**

**Jacob, who begrudged and resisted the tradition of firstborn going first,
fell victim to Laban's explanation that it was wrong
"to give the younger before the firstborn" (Gen. 29:26).**

**Jacob, who complained to Laban,
"Why did you cheat me?" (Gen. 29:25 The Message),
used the same word Esau used:**

**"Jacob has cheated me these two times.
He took away my birthright, and behold,
now he has taken away my blessing" (Gen. 27:36 ESV).**

Max Lucado

Parallel Processing

Prayers for a Child

Hannah's song of thanksgiving to God

**looks forward to the time when,
with David as king,
God would humble the proud and arrogant,
and exalt the lowly and humble.**

[Samuel's mother]

**Mary praises God for the child in her womb
for exactly the same reasons.**

**Pairing Hannah and Mary is Luke's way of saying,
"Think David when you think of Jesus."**

**Jesus is David revisited —
Israel's rightful king.**

Peter Enns

Parallel Processing

Asking to Speak

**When God asked Moses to speak to Pharoah,
Moses claimed to be without ability.**

**Later, the people asked Moses to speak to them
because they were afraid for God to speak to them (Ex 20:19).
(They must have become confident in his ability)**

Parallel Processing

Beautiful or Ugly? Inside or Outside?

**1) beautiful on the surface,
but rotten inside;**

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

Matthew 23:27

**2) actually beautiful,
but believed to be meaningless (or ugly);**

Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

Ezekiel 33:32

**Christ was also beautiful in spirit –
but was thought to be a critical problem who did not have the truth.**

Parallel Processing

Afraid of the People

Saul tried to explain his sin:

“And now I have come to say this to my lord the king
because **the people have made me afraid.**

Your servant thought,

‘I will speak to the king;
perhaps he will grant his servant’s request.’”

2 Samuel 14:15

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus:

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread,
called the Passover, was approaching,
and the chief priests and the teachers of the law
were looking for some way
to get rid of Jesus,
for **they were afraid of the people.**

Luke 22:1-2

**PDE: Pilate’s fear of losing power implied in Matthew 27:24
also the chief priests, fearing a riot in Matthew 26:5**

Parallel Processing

A Period of Waiting

**Just as the destruction of the temple
seemed like the darkest moment for God's people,
so did the death of God's Son. ...**

**The darkness of the crucifixion, though,
would soon give way to the light of the resurrection.**

**What seemed like defeat
would ultimately be victory.**

Landon Dowden

Parallel Processing

Jesus and Moses: Return

... part of Matthew's creative telling of Jesus's birth story is to present him as a new Moses.

Both Jesus and Moses escape a mass-murdering monarch — Pharaoh was threatened by the Hebrew reproduction rate, ordered the male infants to be drowned in the Nile, and Moses alone escaped in a basket on the Nile.

Then as an adult, Moses again escapes Pharaoh's wrath for killing an Egyptian.

Moses only returns, as the book of Exodus tells us, after God told him that, "all those who were seeking your life are dead."

These are the very same words that God tells Joseph in Matthew: the holy family is to return home [from Egypt] "for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

Peter Enns

Parallel Processing

John and Paul

John the seer and Paul the apostle have much in common.

Both experienced post-ascension Christophanies [appearances of Christ].

Both wrote letters to churches.

Both ministered to congregations in the same region of Asia Minor, especially Ephesus.

**Both referred to Jesus as a lamb (Rev 5:6; 1 Cor 5:7),
a letter writer (Rev 2:1; 2 Cor 3:3),
and a conquering king (Rev 19:16; 1 Tim 6:15).**

**Both emphasized the imminent second coming of Christ
(Rev 22:20; 1 Thess 4:16),
warned of a satanic messenger of great deception
(Rev 12:18–13:10; 2 Thess 2:3-10),
and expected suffering for the righteous (Rev 7:14; Phil 1:29).**

**Both described the spiritual war in heaven between God and evil powers
(Rev 12:1-12; Col 2:13-15).**

**Both showed little interest in the earthly Jesus. [physical characteristics]
David B. Capes, Rodney Reeves, and Randolph E. Randolph**

Parallel Processing

A Period of Waiting

On the period of seven days (Ezekiel 3:15),

- **compare Ezra's experience of sitting in a state of horror until the evening sacrifice (Ezra 9:4).**
- **Job's friends sat with him for seven days and seven nights without speaking a word to him (Job 2:13).**
- **Saul of Tarsus needed three days without food and vision to recover from his Damascus Road experience (Acts 9:9).**
- **Perhaps it is not without significance that seven days was the period for the consecration of a priest (Lev. 8:33)**

**... Ezekiel may have regarded this
as the preparation for his ordination to a prophetic priesthood.**

Certainly he was not yet ready to open his mouth in prophecy.

John B. Taylor

Parallel Processing

Psalm 23 Possible Variations

**Couldn't David have thought of a better metaphor?
Surely he could have.**

**After all, he outran Saul and outgunned Goliath.
Why didn't he choose something other than sheep?**

**How about: "The Lord is my commander in chief, and I am his warrior."
There. We like that better.**

A warrior gets a uniform and a weapon, maybe even a medal.

**Or, "The Lord is my inspiration, and I am his singer."
We are in God's choir; what a flattering assignment.**

**Or, "The Lord is my king, and I am his ambassador."
Who wouldn't like to be a spokesperson for God?**

Max Lucado

Parallel Processing

Contrast: The Case of Two Sauls

Consider a change of heart and infusion of spirit ...

Saul Made King (OT)

As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying. 1 Samuel 10:9-10

Later...

Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14

Saul, the zealous Jew, persecuting the church

Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8:3

Saul (Paul), with a re-directed heart after meeting Christ on the road ...

Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit Acts 13:9

Parallel Processing

Ezekiel and Christ

Counted among thousands of Jews exiled to Babylon,
Ezekiel becomes a political and religious prisoner
whom God selects as his mouthpiece.

One of the most startling scenes the prophet encounters
is a valley full of skeletal remains.

The wonder of restoration is exemplified
through the visions of an exiled Old Testament prophet,
and realized throughout the life of Christ.

In Jesus' journeys, he routinely looked on piles of dead bones,
people the religious leaders dismissed,
and spoke life,
leaving those who watched awestruck
by the wonder of restoration.

The Son of God spends his days reaching the marginalized,
healing the smashed-hearted,
setting people free from torment,
and raising corpses back to life.

Margaret Feinberg

Parallel Processing

Personal Suffering of the Prophets

**As other prophets would testify,
personal suffering as part of the delivery of God's word
was not unusual.**

**Isaiah endured the shame of wandering around Jerusalem virtually naked
to illustrate a point;**

Jeremiah suffered exclusion from all social intercourse;

Hosea went through agonies of marital betrayal.

Christopher J.H. Wright

Consider also Ezekiel, who lost his wife...

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Visions Necessary for Authentication

With the prophets, however, some kind of experience of God, either purely auditory or, as with Isaiah and Ezekiel, in a vision, was almost a necessity in order to authenticate their later ministry.

For **Moses**, God spoke out of a burning bush (Exod. 3:1–6).

Jeremiah had no visual experience, though his call was associated with two messages based on the sight of an almond-rod and a boiling pot (Jer. 1:11 ff.).

Isaiah, however, had a most impressive vision, all of which he recounts (Isa. 6), except for the actual appearance of the Lord whose ‘train filled the temple’.

Ezekiel opens the door a little further and lets God be seen in a human outline but with so dazzling a splendour that nothing more could be seen or said.

It is left to **Daniel** to go all the way and to describe in detail the features of the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7: 9ff.).

John B. Taylor

Parallel Processing

Seven Capital Sins and Seven Opposing Virtues

Seven Capital Sins

1. Pride (Proverbs 6:16–17; 21:24)
2. Envy (Proverbs 24:19–20; 27:4)
3. Anger (Proverbs 15:18; 19:19; 27:4)

4. Avarice (Proverbs 11:1; 15:27; 20:10, 23; 25:14)
5. Lust (Proverbs 6: 24–29)
6. Gluttony (Proverbs 20:1; 23:19–21, 29–35)
7. Sloth (Proverbs 6: 9–11; 24: 30–34; 26: 13–16)

(John 4:6–7, 10)

Seven Opposing Virtues

1. Humility (Proverbs 15:33; 29:23)
2. Mercy (Proverbs 14:21, 31; 19:17)
3. Meekness (Proverbs 16: 32; 19: 11; 29:8, 11)
4. Generosity (Proverbs 19:6, 17; 28:27)
5. Chastity (Proverbs 5:15–20)
6. Temperance (Proverbs 23: 1– 3, 6–8)
7. Diligence (Proverbs 6:6–8; 10: 4–5; 13: 4–5; 28:19; 31:27)

(John 19:14, 28, 34)

Introduction to the Spiritual Life: Walking the Path of Prayer with Jesus;

James Brant Pitre

Parallel Processing

Burning without Consuming

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-4 - Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. **Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.** So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

Moses and the Burning Mountain

Exodus 24:17 – “To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.” (but with no “consumption”)

Parallel Processing

Struck Blind

Consider two that were struck blind:

Paul, on the road to Damascus, to persecute Christians (by Christ), Acts 9:1-17

Elymas, for perverting the straight ways of God (by Paul), Acts 13:4-12

Paul knew how this felt!

Parallel Processing

Asking for a Name (Contrast)

**Jacob asks for the name of his opponent
(in the wrestling match with the angel of God);**

**Not only does he not learn his name;
his own name is changed
(as if he did not even know his own name)**

Genesis 32:22ff

Parallel Processing

Total Sacrifice

Moses was willing to be blotted out of God's book, Exodus 32:32

Exodus 32:30-32; The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin — but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

Paul considering giving up his salvation for his people, Romans 9:2-4

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

[Later he let go of his mission to the Jews in favor of the Gentiles]

Parallel Processing

Contrast Between Abraham's Sons

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his “only” son Isaac, but God saved the boy (Gen 22:1-19).

Earlier, God had told Abraham to let Ishmael go (sacrifice?), but then saved him, too (Gen 21:8-21).

Note that Isaac is noted as Abraham's “only” son, Gen 22:2,12,16

This mostly refers to the pre-eminence of Isaac in God's providence; this is a parallel to the idea of Jesus Christ being God's “only” son, even though we are all to be children of God

Parallel Processing

Adam and Christ

Adam and Eve disobeyed and brought us death.

Christ, the last Adam, obeyed and brought us life.

The Old Testament shows sin in all its dimensions.

Christ brings salvation in all its dimensions.

**The covenant with Israel was made through Moses at Mount Sinai,
sealed with the sacrificial blood of animals, and called for obedience to the law.**

**The new covenant was made through Christ, sealed with the blood of his self-sacrifice,
and calls for the obedience of faith through the Holy Spirit.**

In the Old Testament nobody could go into the presence of God in the holiest place in the temple except the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Dramatically, at the moment of Christ's death, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, for Christ's own sacrifice has opened the way for us to enter into God's presence.

**In the Old Testament God redeemed one nation, Israel,
and other nations were not included yet in the people of God.**

**In Christ, God extends redemption to all nations,
and Gentiles are included in God's family.**

**The Old Testament story takes place primarily in one land,
promised and given to one people.**

**Christ sends his disciples to take the good news to the ends of the earth
and to all peoples (as the Old Testament itself promised).**

Christopher J.H. Wright