

Jesus is Everywhere in the Bible!

The **tree** is one of the richest typological motifs in Scripture, and it became especially important for the early Church and later theologians

1. The tree in Eden

The opening chapters of Genesis introduce two significant trees:

- the **tree of life**,
- the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

The tragedy of the Fall centres on a tree.

Adam's disobedience at the forbidden tree brings:

- sin,
- death,
- exile,
- loss of access to the tree of life.

So, at the very beginning of Scripture, a tree becomes the place where humanity falls.

2. Christ dies on a tree

The New Testament deliberately describes Christ's crucifixion as taking place on a **tree** as well as on a cross.

For example:

- Acts 5:30
- Acts 10:39
- 1 Peter 2:24

This language recalls Deuteronomy 21:23:

"Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."

Paul explicitly applies this text to Christ in Galatians 3:13.

Thus the cross is not merely an instrument of execution; it is portrayed as the place where Christ bears the covenant curse.

3. The second tree reverses the first

This became a favourite theme of the early Church.

The pattern is:

Eden	Calvary
Tree brings death	Tree brings life
Adam disobeys	Christ obeys
Curse enters	Curse removed
Humanity falls	Humanity redeemed
Paradise closed	Paradise reopened

The symmetry is striking.

Many early Christian writers saw the cross as the **new tree of life**.

4. Christ becomes the true Tree of Life

The tree of life disappears after Genesis 3 but returns at the end of the Bible in Revelation 22.

Between these two appearances stands the cross.

Although Revelation does not explicitly identify Christ's cross with the tree of life, the theological movement of Scripture strongly suggests that access to eternal life comes through Christ's death. The paradise lost in Genesis is regained through the crucified and risen Christ, and Revelation culminates in restored access to the tree of life.

5. Patristic theology

This became one of the most famous typologies in the early Church.

For example, Irenaeus argued that:

- humanity fell through a tree,
- therefore it was fitting that salvation should come through a tree.

Similarly, Augustine of Hippo often contrasted:

- the tree of disobedience,
- the tree of obedience.

The Fathers delighted in these reversals.

6. Puritan use

The Puritans frequently preached this theme.

They would often contrast:

Adam stretching out his hand to the forbidden fruit

with

Christ stretching out his hands upon the wood of the cross.

The first tree displayed rebellion.

The second displayed perfect obedience.

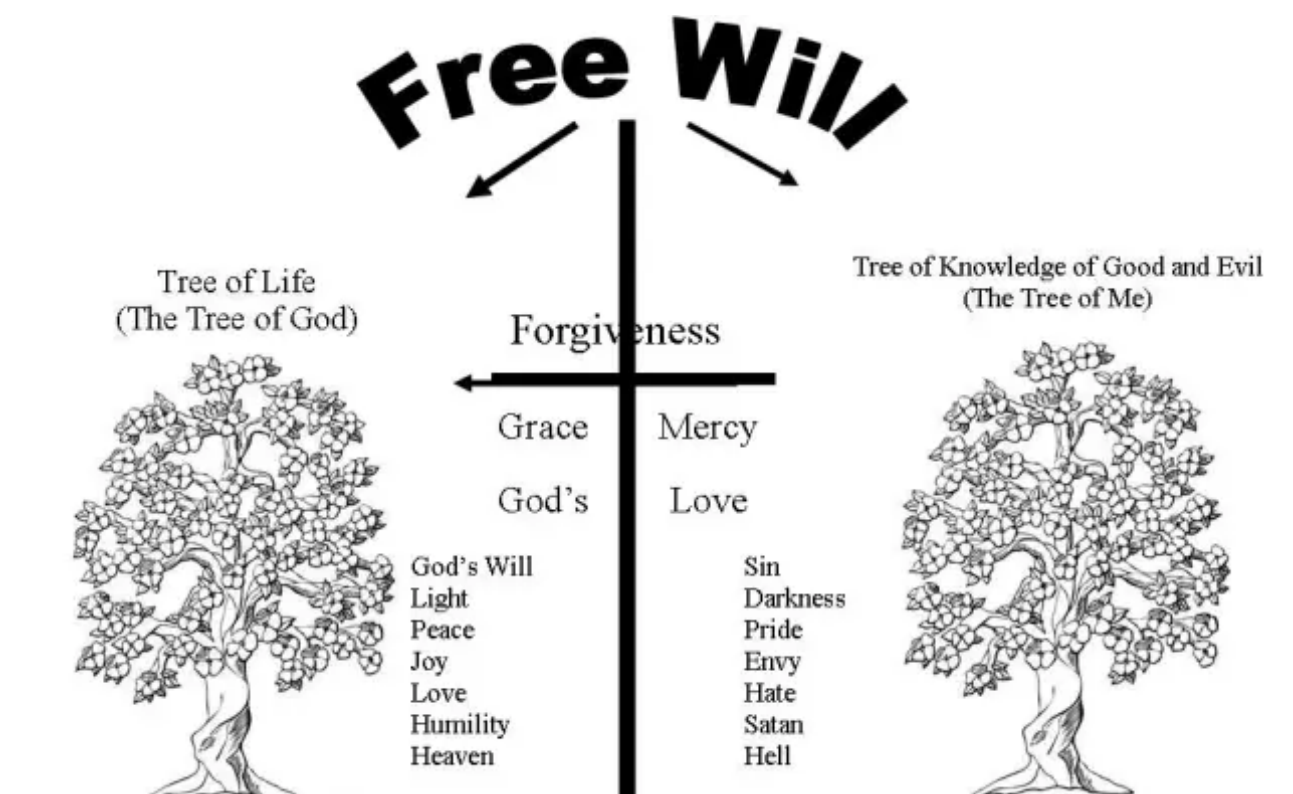
Some Puritans also connected Noah's ark, the wood of the altar, and other wooden objects to Christ's cross, though they generally insisted that such typology should remain grounded in Scripture rather than become fanciful.

Why this typology is so compelling

The "tree" motif is powerful because it spans the whole biblical narrative:

- **Genesis 2–3:** the tree of life and the forbidden tree.
- **Deuteronomy 21:** the curse associated with hanging on a tree.
- **The Gospels:** Christ crucified on the wood of the cross.
- **Galatians 3:** Christ bears the curse of the tree.
- **Revelation 22:** restored access to the tree of life.

From the first pages of Scripture to the last, the imagery of the tree frames humanity's story: **life is lost at a tree, the curse is borne on a tree, and eternal life is restored through the One who hung upon that tree.**



The **Joseph → Christ** typology is one of the most beautiful in the Bible. From the earliest centuries of the Church, Christian interpreters have seen Joseph as one of the clearest foreshadowings of Christ because of the remarkable pattern of his life.

The important point is that **Joseph's story remains a real historical account**. The typology arises because God, in his providence, orders Joseph's life in ways that anticipate the Messiah.

1. The beloved son

Joseph is introduced as the beloved son of Jacob.

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons..." (Genesis 37:3)

Likewise, at Jesus' baptism and transfiguration, the Father declares:

"This is my beloved Son."

The special love of the father becomes a point of correspondence.

2. Hated by his brothers

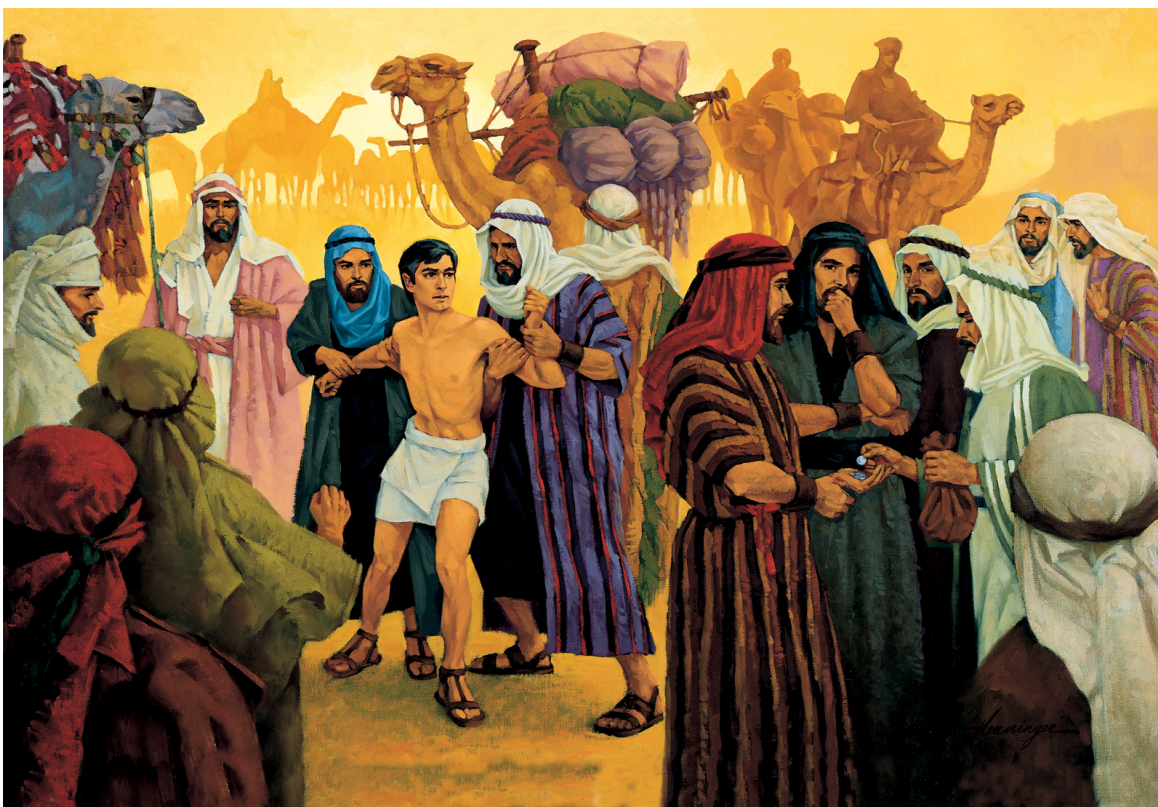
Joseph's brothers resent him because of his father's love and because of his dreams.

They cannot even speak peacefully to him.

Similarly, Jesus is rejected by his own people.

As John 1:11 says:

"He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him."



3. Sent by his father

Jacob sends Joseph to seek the welfare of his brothers.

"Go now, see if it is well with your brothers..." Genesis 37:14

Likewise, the Father sends the Son into the world.

This theme of divine mission becomes central in John's Gospel.

4. Conspiracy to kill him

When Joseph approaches, his brothers say:

"Come now, let us kill him." Genesis 37:20

The religious leaders similarly conspire against Jesus.

Both are the object of murderous plots.

5. Sold for silver

One of the most striking parallels.

Joseph is sold for: Genesis 37:28

twenty pieces of silver.

Jesus is betrayed by Judas Iscariot for:

thirty pieces of silver.

Although the amounts differ, the symbolism is powerful.

Both are betrayed for money.



6. Descends into humiliation

Joseph's path is downward:

- pit,
- slavery,
- prison.

Jesus' path is likewise downward:

- incarnation,
- suffering,
- crucifixion,
- burial.

The movement from glory to humiliation to glory is central to both stories.

7. Innocent suffering

Joseph repeatedly suffers despite doing what is right.

Especially in the house of Potiphar, he refuses temptation and is imprisoned because of false accusation.

Christ likewise suffers though completely innocent.

8. Counted among criminals

Joseph is imprisoned with Pharaoh's officials.

Christ is crucified between criminals.

9. One lives, one dies

Joseph interprets the dreams of two prisoners.

One is restored.

One is executed.

At Calvary:

One thief believes.

One rejects Christ.

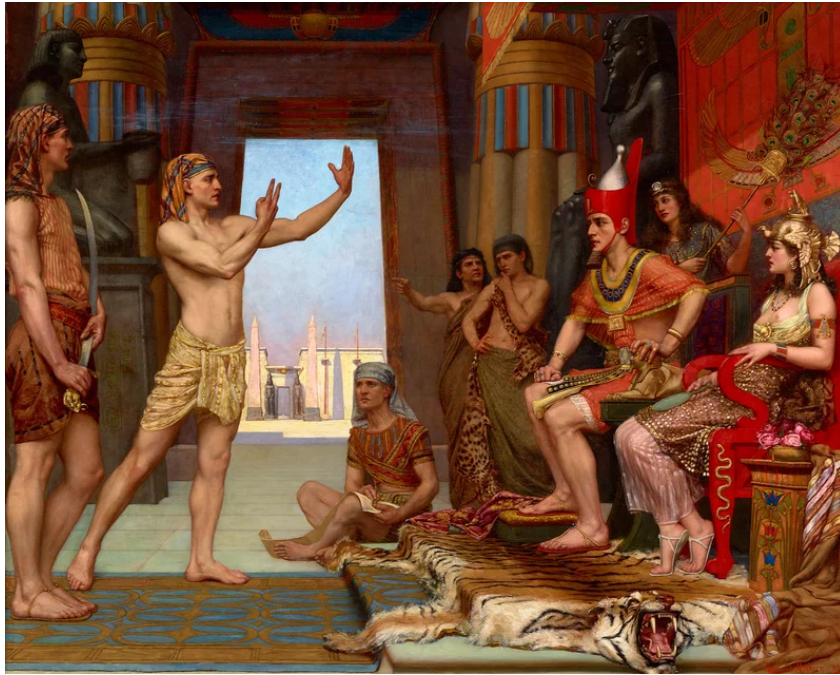
The pattern is remarkably similar.

10. Exaltation after humiliation

This is perhaps the greatest parallel.

Joseph moves from prison to becoming ruler over Egypt.

He sits at Pharaoh's right hand.



Christ moves from:

Cross



Resurrection



Ascension



God's right hand.

Humiliation precedes glory.

11. The saviour of the world

Joseph stores grain during the years of abundance. Genesis 41:49

When famine comes,

the nations come to him for bread.

Without Joseph,

many perish.

Likewise,

Christ says:

"I am the bread of life."

People from every nation come to him for eternal life.

12. Unknown then recognised

Joseph's brothers meet him.

They do not recognise him.

Only later does he reveal himself.

Many Christian interpreters have seen here a foreshadowing of Israel's eventual recognition of Christ.

Whether or not one presses that application, the narrative pattern of hidden identity followed by revelation is striking.

13. Forgiveness

Perhaps the emotional climax. Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph tells his terrified brothers:

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

Instead of revenge,

he forgives them.

Christ likewise prays:

"Father, forgive them."

In both cases,

evil becomes the instrument of salvation.

14. Providence

This is where Joseph becomes especially significant.

Joseph's life repeatedly appears disastrous:

- betrayal,
- slavery,
- imprisonment.

Yet every event advances God's hidden purpose.

The very sins committed against him become the means by which God preserves his covenant people.

That pattern culminates in Christ.

The greatest evil ever committed—the crucifixion of the Son of God—becomes the means of the world's redemption.

15. Joseph as wisdom

Joseph is repeatedly described as possessing extraordinary wisdom.

He interprets dreams.

He governs wisely.

He preserves life.

Christ is described as:

the wisdom of God.



Summary of the parallels

Joseph	Christ
Beloved son	Beloved Son
Sent by father	Sent by the Father
Hated by brothers	Rejected by his own
Sold for silver	Betrayed for silver
Descends into the pit	Descends into the Earth
Innocent sufferer	Sinless sufferer
False accusations	False witnesses
Among criminals	Crucified with criminals
Exalted to ruler	Exalted to God's right hand
Gives bread	Bread of Life
Saves nations	Saviour of the world
Forgives enemies	Forgives sinners
God's providence turns evil into good	The cross turns evil into redemption

Why the Church loved this typology

Unlike some typologies that hinge on a single event or symbol, Joseph's entire life forms a coherent pattern that anticipates Christ. This is one reason why early Christian writers such as Irenaeus, medieval theologians, the Reformers, and the Puritans frequently drew on Joseph in preaching.

