

SETTING THE TABLE 4

THE JEWISH IDIOM OF NATURAL TO SPIRITUAL

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

The most important idiom to help understand what Jesus meant at the Last Supper, as well as Paul's interpretation of the Messiah's teachings as given in 1 Corinthians 10–12, is the natural-to-spiritual idiom of the first-century Jews. Its role as another form of parable makes it vital to understanding the Messiah's true teachings.

The Jewish Prophets

Early Jewish Messianic followers often used many terms figuratively, whereby they did not actually mean the natural or literal object, but the spiritual truth or aspect behind it.

The Jewish prophets who came before Christ often used this natural-to-spiritual idiom. Speaking in this idiomatic way was commonplace among the Israelites, as seen here in relation to tasting and eating food:

^{NAS} Ezekiel 3:1 Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; **eat this scroll**, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

^{NAS} Ezekiel 3:3 And He said to me, "Son of man, **feed** your stomach, and **fill your body with this scroll** which I am giving you."
Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

^{NAS} Ezekiel 3:4 Then He said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and **speak with My words to them.**

Here Ezekiel speaks of spiritually "feeding" on the word of God ("scroll"), taking it within and then giving it out to the house of Israel. He is speaking a spiritual truth; Ezekiel is of course not saying that he literally ate a wooden scroll with parchment of animal skin on it.

The prophet Jeremiah also uses this spiritual idiom with eating and feeding:

^{KJV} Jeremiah 15:16 **Thy words were found, and I did eat them;** and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

^{JPS} Jeremiah 3:15 and I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who shall **feed you** with knowledge and understanding.

Jesus Continues Using This Natural-to-Spiritual Idiom

God anointed the Messiah to continue using this same natural-to-spiritual idiom:

^{NAS} John 4:32 But He said to them, “I have **food to eat** that you do not know about.”

^{NAS} John 4:33 The disciples therefore were saying to one another, “No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?”

^{NAS} John 4:34 Jesus said to them, “**My food** is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

Jesus does not mean that he has a secret food stash, but rather that he is partaking of spiritual nourishment that comes from God. This “food” motivates and gives him strength to do God’s will, to teach what God wanted him to teach (John 7:16), and to accomplish His work.

Paul, a former Pharisee who had studied under the famous Rabbi Gamaliel, also frequently used this idiom:

^{NAS} Hebrews 13:10 We have **an altar**, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right **to eat**.

In saying that those who serve the tabernacle (i.e., the Old Covenant) have no right to “eat” from this altar, it presupposes that those in the New Covenant do have this authority. However, we in the New Covenant do not interpret this “altar” or “eating” literally; we understand that Paul means the eating to be *spiritual*. We are not searching for the lost altar of Paul so that we can offer sacrifices on it, and neither does Paul qualify his statement by saying, “Oh, I don’t mean we literally have an altar,” for he expects readers to discern this.

In John 6, Jesus speaks to a particularly stubborn group of people who are following him only for free bread, having partaken of loaves that he had broken and miraculously multiplied the previous day:

^{NAS} John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled.

The context of this verse is crucial to understanding the scriptures that follow in John 6, as is knowing that Jesus is speaking to a group that only wanted more bread and didn’t understand or care that the Messiah was in their midst or that God was giving them miraculous signs:

^{NAS} John 6:27 “Do not work for the **food** which perishes, but for the **food** which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, *even* God, has set His seal.”

Jesus uses the natural-to-spiritual idiom to refer to spiritual food that endures to eternal life, but this group mainly desires more natural bread and reminds Jesus how God gave them bread in the wilderness. They complain and in effect question why Jesus doesn’t also provide bread every day (except the Sabbath), as under Moses:

^{NAS} John 6:30 They said therefore to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?”

^{NAS} John 6:31 “Our fathers ate the manna⁴⁹ in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them **bread out of heaven to eat.**’”

These men blow right by what Jesus told them in verse 26 and imply that he should be like Moses with the daily manna, so Jesus responds:

^{NAS} John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the **true bread** out of heaven.

Jesus of course means the spiritual bread here—the word of God—not a ritual with wafers.

49 The manna is called the “bread from heaven” in Exodus 16:4.

^{NAS} John 6:33 “For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”

^{NAS} John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread** of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

^{NAS} John 6:51a “I am the **living bread that came down out of heaven**; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;

After Rome took over and the Jewish disconnect took place, many spiritual understandings were lost. As a result, scriptures intended as spiritual truth were misconstrued as a Roman ritual, and many false concepts have come out of John 6 because of this failure to understand the natural-to-spiritual idiom and the true context in which Jesus speaks.

Jesus is not saying that he used to be a God in heaven but then came down as bread; he is only comparing himself to the manna, the natural bread “out of heaven” that “came down” from God in the wilderness. He is the spiritual fulfillment of what the manna pointed to—he is the “true bread.”

Spiritual Eating and Drinking

Let’s look at a few more examples of eating and drinking that are meant to be taken spiritually, starting with the letters of Paul. These come just before the scriptures that the Roman Church interpreted as meaning a natural ritual (i.e., 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 11:23–34):

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 10:2 and all were **baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 10:3 and all **ate** the same **spiritual food**;

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 10:4 and all **drank** the same **spiritual drink**, for they were **drinking** from a **spiritual rock** which followed them; and **the rock was Christ**.

Here Paul uses the natural word “baptized,” but he means it in a spiritual sense. He also speaks of “eating” and “drinking” that pointed forward to the true *spiritual* food and drink.

On their journey out of Egypt, the Israelites became very thirsty and God told Moses to take his rod and strike the rock, causing “rivers” of water to flow in the desert (Psalm 78:16; Exodus 17:1–6). Paul says that the “rock” that gave them drink was Christ, but certainly he is not saying that the rock was really Jesus disguised as a rock in the wilderness. Instead, Paul shows in the above verses that what the Jews did *naturally* under Moses often extends *spiritually* to us in the New Covenant with the *spiritual* eating and *spiritual* drinking that Christ (the true spiritual rock) provides for us.

In this same context (verse 6), Paul uses the Greek word for type (*typos*), saying that these Old Covenant things he had mentioned were types for the believers in the Messiah:

^{YLT} 1 Corinthians 10:6 and those things became **types** of us, for our not passionately desiring evil things, as also these did desire.

Paul shows that the rock (the type) pointed forward to the Messiah (the antitype) who is the true spiritual rock. Jesus knows this event with Moses and the rock foreshadowed him, yet he also applies it to those who believe in him and receive God’s spirit:

^{NAS} John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.**”

^{NAS} John 7:38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘**From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.**’”

^{NAS} John 7:39 **But this He spoke of the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

At the Last Supper, the Messiah spoke of “eating” and “drinking” at his table in the kingdom of God. This concept of a Messianic feast in God’s kingdom was a long-standing Jewish one:

^{NAS} Luke 22:30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Yet in his letter to the Romans, Paul *seems* to correct Jesus though in fact he is bringing out what Jesus meant—that the believers would be eating and drinking spiritually:

^{NAS} Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is **not** eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.



Many examples of this common Jewish idiom exist in scripture, such as when Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well that Jacob had built:

^{NAS} John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**.”

^{NAS} John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Jesus says we will never thirst for water, but that is not literally what he means. It doesn't take long for any believer without water to become parched, but Jesus *means* that the believer will not go spiritually thirsty, because living water (the spirit of God) is available to all who receive him.

Similarly, Paul speaks of drinking the spirit:

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to **drink** of one Spirit.

And of us having “tasted” the word of God:

^{KJV} Hebrews 6:5 And have **tasted** the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

He also speaks of “fruit” as a natural thing but means it in a spiritual sense:

^{NAS} Galatians 5:22–23 But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

And these scriptures below speak of something as being “true” when it is the spiritual fulfillment of the natural object or concept that came before:

^{NAS} Hebrews 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, **a mere copy of the true one**, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

^{NAS} Hebrews 8:2 a minister in the sanctuary, and in the **true tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, not man.

^{NAS} John 6:32 Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the **true bread** out of heaven.

^{NIV} John 1:8–9 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The **true light** that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

Even God’s law itself was said to be a shadow, meaning that something more real (or “true”) caused the shadow:

^{NAS} Hebrews 10:1 For the Law, since it has only **a shadow of the good things to come** and **not the very form of things**, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.

Readers who are familiar with this crucial natural-to-spiritual idiom may wish to just skim through the following list and go right to Course 1. The full list is provided for those who wish to delve deeper into this idiom.

One way to frame *most* of the following list would be as type and antitype, where the type points forward to the antitype, shown below as the natural pointing to the spiritual. We’ll see this idiom used time and again in these five areas:

1. The Tabernacle and Temple themselves
2. Services performed in the Tabernacle and Temple
3. The priests and priesthood
4. The altar and sacrifices
5. Jews, Israel, and Jerusalem

List of Natural-to-Spiritual Examples

1. The Tabernacle and Temple Themselves	
<p><i>Natural Tabernacle pointing to the spiritual heavenly Tabernacle</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 8:1–2 Now the main point in what has been said <i>is this</i>: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.</p>
<p><i>Natural Temple pointing to the spiritual Temple</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;</p> <p>^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and <i>that</i> the Spirit of God dwells in you?</p>
<p><i>Natural house of God pointing to the spiritual house</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p>
<p><i>Natural Holy Place in the Temple pointing to the true spiritual Holiest Place (heaven)</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;</p> <p>^{NAS} Hebrews 10:19 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,</p>

<p><i>Natural stones (in the natural Temple) pointing to spiritual living stones in the spiritual Temple</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p>
<p><i>Natural cornerstone of the Temple pointing to Christ being the cornerstone in a spiritual Temple</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner <i>stone</i>.</p> <p>^{NAS} Acts 4:11 “He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, <i>but</i> which became the very corner <i>stone</i>.” *</p> <p>* There were the natural builders (stonemasons) of the Temple, and those referred to as builders (masons) in a spiritual sense (i.e., the religious leaders of the Jews), who rejected the chief cornerstone. Then we have the powerful group today called the Masons, but that is a longer story ...</p>
<p><i>Natural kingdom of God pointing to the spiritual kingdom of God</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.</p> <p>^{NAS} Luke 17:20–21 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here <i>it is!</i>’ or, ‘There <i>it is!</i>’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”</p>

2. Services Performed in the Tabernacle and Temple

Natural incense offering in the Temple and our prayers pointing to spiritual incense

^{NAS} Psalm 141:2 May **my prayer** be counted as **incense** before Thee; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

^{NAS} Revelation 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls **full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints**.

^{NAS} Revelation 8:3–4 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

Natural blood of the covenant pointing to spiritual blood of the covenant

^{NAS} Zechariah 9:11 As for you also, because of **the blood of My covenant** with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

^{NAS} Mark 14:24 And He said to them, “This is **My blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many.

Natural sprinkling of blood pointing to spiritual sprinkling of blood

^{NAS} Exodus 24:8 So Moses **took the blood and sprinkled it on the people**, and said, “Behold the **blood of the covenant**, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

^{NAS} 1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and **be sprinkled with His blood**: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.*

* Peter here writing to those of the Diaspora; see verse 1.

<p><i>Natural drink offering poured out to God in the Temple pointing to a spiritual drink offering</i></p>	<p>^{NIV} Exodus 29:40 With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil from pressed olives, and a quarter of a hin of wine as a drink offering.</p> <p>^{NIV} 2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.</p>
<p><i>Natural ritual washing pointing to spiritual washing with God's word</i></p>	<p>“Make them wash their garments ... for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (paraphrase of Exodus 19:10–11)</p> <p>^{NAB} John 2:6 Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.</p> <p>^{KJV} Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,</p> <p>^{KJV} John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.</p>
<p><i>Natural baptism in water pointing to spiritual baptism by the Holy Spirit</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} John 1:26 John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, <i>but</i> among you stands One whom you do not know.</p> <p>^{NIV} Acts 11:16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’</p>

<p><i>Natural ritual cleansing and atonement through the blood of animal sacrifices pointing to the shed blood of Christ that provides spiritual cleansing before God</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, <i>one may almost say</i>, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.</p> <p>^{NAS} 1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.</p>
<p><i>Natural Sabbath rest pointing to the spiritual Sabbath rest</i></p>	<p>^{NIV} Exodus 31:16 The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant.</p> <p>^{NAS} Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.</p>
<p><i>Natural circumcision on the eighth day pointing to spiritual circumcision of the heart</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Deuteronomy 10:16 “Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more.</p> <p>^{NAS} Deuteronomy 30:6 “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.</p> <p>^{NAS} Romans 2:28–29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.</p>

3. The Priests and Priesthood

<p><i>Natural high priest pointing to a spiritual fulfillment of the high priest</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, <i>He entered</i> through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;</p>
<p><i>Natural priesthood pointing to a spiritual priesthood</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p>
<p><i>Natural priests in the natural Temple pointing to spiritual priests in the spiritual Temple</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Revelation 1:6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Natural priests pointing to those who function as spiritual priests in the spiritual covenant</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 8:4–6 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned <i>by God</i> when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.</p>

<p><i>Natural priests partaking of the sacrifices at the altar</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 9:13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the <i>food</i> of the temple, <i>and</i> those who attend regularly to the altar have their share with the altar?</p> <p>^{KJV} 1 Corinthians 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?</p>
<p><i>And spiritual priests partaking spiritually from the altar</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 13:10 We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.</p> <p>^{NAS} 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p>
<p><i>Natural spots on a priestly garment (from Temple sacrifices) pointing to spiritual spots (from spiritual flesh, sins of the flesh) on spiritual priest's garment</i></p>	<p>^{DBY} Jude 1:12 These are spots in your love-feasts, feasting together <i>with you</i> without fear, pasturing themselves; clouds without water, carried along by <i>the</i> winds; autumnal trees, without fruit, twice dead, rooted up;</p> <p>^{DBY} Jude 1:23 but others save with fear, snatching <i>them</i> out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.</p> <p>^{KJV} 2 Peter 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, <i>as</i> they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;</p>

<p><i>Priests clothed in natural linen pointing to spiritual priests (pictured below as the bride) clothed in the spiritual linen of righteousness</i></p>	<p>^{KJV} Leviticus 6:10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.</p> <p>^{KJV} Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.</p>
<p><i>Natural priest washing his clothes for ritual cleansing pointing to spiritual priests washing their robes in the spiritual blood of the true Lamb, who provides spiritual cleansing</i></p>	<p>^{KJV} Numbers 8:6–7 Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and <i>so</i> make themselves clean.</p> <p>^{NAS} Revelation 7:14 And I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”</p>
<p><i>Natural shepherds leading and guiding the flocks and spiritual shepherds being those called to lead and guide God’s people</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Jeremiah 23:4 “I shall also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.</p> <p>^{YLT} Ephesians 4:11 and He gave some <i>as</i> apostles, and some <i>as</i> prophets, and some <i>as</i> proclaimers of good news, and some <i>as</i> shepherds* and teachers,</p> <p>* Most English translators use “pastors” instead of “shepherds” here in verse 11, but the Greek word is “shepherds.”</p>

<p><i>Natural sheep and people as sheep speaking spiritually</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Jeremiah 50:6 “My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn aside <i>on</i> the mountains; They have gone along from mountain to hill And have forgotten their resting place.</p>
<p><i>Natural stars in the firmament give light, and God’s people pictured as stars spiritually, called to show forth His light</i></p>	<p>^{DBY} Daniel 12:3 And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the expanse; and they that turn the many to righteousness as the stars,* for ever and ever.</p> <p>* Hollywood tries to counterfeit this by designating those who shine in worldly music, movies, and TV as “stars,” but in God’s eyes stars are those who have Godly wisdom and turn others to righteousness.</p>
<p>4. The Altar and Sacrifices</p>	
<p><i>Natural sacrifices and believers as spiritual living sacrifices</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, <i>which is</i> your spiritual service of worship.</p>
<p><i>Natural altar and spiritual altar</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Hebrews 13:10 We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.</p>
<p><i>Natural Passover and spiritual Passover</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Exodus 34:25 “You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread, nor is the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover to be left over until morning.</p> <p>^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 5:7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are <i>in fact</i> unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.</p>

<p><i>Natural first-fruits offering and spiritual first-fruits offering</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Leviticus 23:10 “Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.</p> <p>^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.</p>
<p><i>Natural burnt offerings and spiritual burnt offerings seen under the altar</i></p>	<p>^{NAS} Revelation 6:9 And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;</p>
<p><i>Natural ritual cleansing by the blood of animals and spiritual cleansing by the blood of Christ</i></p>	<p>^{NIV} Hebrews 9:13–14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!</p>

5. Jews, Israel, and Jerusalem

*Natural Jew and
spiritual Jew*

^{NAS} Romans 2:28–29 For he is **not a Jew who is one outwardly**; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who **is one inwardly**; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, **by the Spirit**, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

*Natural Israel and
spiritual Israel*

^{NIV} Romans 9:6–8 It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is **through Isaac** that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, **it is not the natural children** who are God’s children, but **it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring**.

*Natural Jerusalem
and spiritual
Jerusalem*

^{NAS} Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Natural covenant and spiritual covenant, in the form of the two women (Sarah and Hagar) by whom Abraham had sons

^{NAS} Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?

^{NAS} Galatians 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.

^{NAS} Galatians 4:23 But the son by the bondwoman was born **according to the flesh**, and the son by the free woman **through the promise**.

^{NAS} Galatians 4:24 This is allegorically speaking; for these *women* **are two covenants**, one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.

^{NAS} Galatians 4:25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

^{NAS} Galatians 4:26 But the Jerusalem* above is free; she is our mother.

^{NAS} Galatians 4:29 But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, so it is now also.

* I.e., heavenly spiritual Jerusalem.

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