Symbolism, Type, Anti-type, Forerunner, and Fulfillment

From childhood, writers of the first century heard stories involving riddles and parables hard to understand and viewed the Bible as a sealed book, as stated in Revelation 5:1. Moreover, they felt compelled to view various events throughout the Old Testament as forerunners of what was happening in their time. The events were considered to be dual and have a “dual fulfillment”. Here are some examples:

There are old things and new things: The tree in the Garden of Eden was fulfilled by a Tree of Life in the first century, Jerusalem below and above, old covenant and new covenant, old and new testament, law on stone and laws on the heart, a curse of the law and the mercy of having grace, a first and a second exodus, first and second Pentecost, a serpent on a stake and Christ on a cross, anti-Christians and Christians, hired shepherds and true shepherd, Adam and second Adam, old and new creature, old wine skins and new wine skins, old wine and new wine, flesh and spirit, fruits of the flesh and fruits of the spirit, Hagar a bond servant, and Sarah, a free woman, Ishmael and Isaac, Jew and neither Jew nor gentile in the new, a former rain and a latter rain, the darkness and the light, an old garment and the new garment, soiled garment and spotless garment, clean exterior and clean interior, the dead and the resurrected, earthly and the heavenly, evil heart and pure heart, tithing and giving, the blind who receive sight, goats and sheep, tares and wheat.

The Exodus

I Corinthians 10:1-5. The Israelites were baptized in the Red Sea and had spiritual meat (i.e., manna), and spiritual water from a spiritual Rock, and that Rock was Christ. Christ claimed to be the True Manna from heaven, the Serpent on a stake, which takes away the sting of death. He was the Passover and defeated death, the prince of this world, after three days and three nights in a grave as Jonah was in the belly of a whale three days and three nights. Israel observed the Passover and defeated death, the prince of Egypt, after a three-day trip to the Red Sea (Ex. 3:18 & 8:27 & 14:9 & Josephus’ Antiquities 15:1). Armies of the Pharaoh drowned at sunrise (Ex. 14:27-28). Christ said that, if they destroyed the temple, He would raise it back up in three days (speaking of his body as a temple, John 2:19-21).

Egypt was covered with frogs and rivers turned into blood, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the first time. Egypt was covered with lice, flies and pestilence, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the second time. Animals of Egypt are plagued, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the third time. Egypt is plagued with boils, pestilence, hailstones and lightening, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the fourth time. Egypt was covered with locusts, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the fifth time. Egypt was covered with darkness, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the sixth time. Egypt is covered with death of all its firstborn, because they had no blood on their doorposts, and the Pharaoh released the Israelites and withdrew his release the seventh time by going after the Israelites at the Red Sea.

In Revelation, angels cover the land with seven plagues: Rivers turn into blood; 2. Land covered with pestilence; 3. Land covered with sores; 4. Land covered with sores, hailstones and lightening; 5. Land covered with locusts five months; 6. Land covered with darkness; 7. Israelites from 12 tribes washed in the Lamb’s blood.