

Old Testament Shadows of N.T. Reality

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today we enjoy the first Sunday of a new year and we begin the first lesson of our theme this year, which is O.T. Shadows in which we are focusing this quarter on Shadows of Mercy and Judgment.
2. As I researched topic, I began to realize just how *amazing* and *controversial* it really is.
 - A. Consider the shadows of Hebrews 8:3-6 which reads, “For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests **who offer the gifts according to the law;**⁵ **who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”⁶ But now **He has obtained a more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also **Mediator of a better covenant**, which was **established on better promises.**”
 - i. Note how the priests of the O.T. offer gifts by the law, but these offerings and where they offer them is only a *copy*, only a *shadow* of what is the real, the true, which is in heaven!
 - ii. And, through the work of Christ God provided 1) a more excellent ministry, 2) a better covenant/law, and 3) better promises.
 - B. Although we praise God for this work in Christ, this work is what caused such anger and hatred among the Jews.
 - i. They accused those who preached Christ of blasphemy [Stephen] (Acts 6:13-14 – “They also set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words **against this holy place and the law;**¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will **destroy this place and change the customs** which Moses delivered to us.”).
 - ii. They accused Jesus of the same (Mark 14:58 – “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.’”)
 - iii. They couldn’t accept or see the value or learn the lessons from the O.T. *shadows* as it pointed them to the real things that would come through Christ.
3. So, what I want to talk about the very important topic of O.T. shadows.
 - A. I want to do this today by way of an introduction to help lay the ground work for future lessons.
 - B. I want to do this that we might appreciate the nature of the O.T., what God was trying to do and what he did for all in bring us to Christ through these shadows.

BODY:

I. O.T. shadows, types and figures:

- A. Defined:
 1. Shadows (skia):
 - a. **Thayer** – “...an image cast by an object and representing the form of that object opposed to the express likeness, the very image. (p. 578)
 - b. **BDAG** – “shadow, **foreshadowing** (in contrast to reality)” (p. 755)
 2. Types/figures (tupos):
 - a. **Strong/Thayer** – mark/stamp/figure formed by a blow or impression (i.e., like Caesar on a coin, rp)
 - b. **BDAG** – “type, pattern, model...given by God as an indication of the future, in the form of persons or things”
- B. From these definitions we gain that shadows and types are faint images or patterns, representing or resembling the true form that was to come, the real things of Christ.
 1. As a shadow may first reveal the limited outline/pattern of the person or thing that makes its (i.e., like a shadow on a wall before the person is seen), so O.T. shadows revealed a limited outline/pattern of the real things in Christ to come.
 2. In the same way, the *types* of the O.T. revealed in limited fashion a glimpse of the real thing, the N.T. *antitypes* (antitupos), that would come to be fulfilled in Christ (**Thayer; BDAG**).

II. O.T. shadows:

- A. O.T. shadows of *food, drink, and observance of feasts and sabbath days* (Col. 2:16-17 – “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,¹⁷ **which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**”).
1. Food/drink, festival/feast, the new moon, and sabbaths were a common part of O.T. life.
 - a. These found their origin in the Law and are often linked together concerning Israel’s life of service/worship (Hos. 2:11 – “And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts.”).
 - b. The O.T. regulated certain foods (clean/unclean) and drink in a few specific cases.
 2. These events and regulations were not to be used as a standard in judging Christians (2:16-17).
 - a. These verses begin with “so/therefore” showing them to be a conclusion reached.
 - i. This conclusion is based on Christ taking away the *O.T. ordinances* and overcoming the evil powers of this world (2:13-15 – “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,¹⁴ **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”).
 - ii. Since God has forgiven us, taken away the O.T. ordinances, and overcome the powers of this world, Christians are not to be judged by these, but to live in Christ’s freedom!
 - b. These events and regulations were *O.T. shadows* of the real things in Christ (2:17)!
 - i. These shadows, like all shadows, were temporary and inferior to the real thing, having value in leading us to Christ (Gal. 3:23-25 – *tutor* – “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”).
 - ii. The shadows of the Law give us direction and understanding of what we have in Christ! So, they are still of great value in helping us know the wonders of Christ!
- B. O.T. shadows in the *temple and priestly services* (Heb. 8:4-5 – “For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;⁵ **who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”).
1. These shadows help us see/know the real thing, being the image of the real way of redemption found in Christ (Heb. 8:5a).
 2. Since God wanted all to be able to recognize the real thing by the shadow the tabernacle and its services (a copy), all had to be made according to God’s pattern (8:5b)!
 - a. A humanly devised tabernacle and services would not have been a proper copy and would have corrupted the shadow of the heavenly things of God.
 - b. Therefore, following God’s pattern for tabernacle was so very important!
 3. If the shadow must be made according to the pattern, **how much more so the real things**, the church, it works, etc.?
 - a. I do not get the idea that tabernacle worship was haphazard, was whimsical, was according to man’s desires and dictates!
 - b. Yet, liberties with God’s word and the church abound!
- C. O.T. shadows in the *sacrifices* (Heb. 10:1-4 – “For the law, **having a shadow of the good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, **can never with these same sacrifices**, which they offer continually year by year, **make those who approach perfect.**² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.³ **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**⁴ For it is **not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**”).

1. As shadows of the real thing in Christ, these were unable to make those who sought to approached God with them perfect or complete, always leaving a consciousness of their sin.
 - a. Each year the Day of Atonement brought about remembrance of them again.
 - b. Sacrifices for the sins of the people had to be offered all over again!
 2. Why? Because shedding the blood of **animal** was a shadow, which although requiring them to be without physical blemish, had no consciousness of sin nor the true spiritual purity needed to take away sins (10:4). Instead they foreshadowed...
 - a. The perfect sacrifice needed to take away sin.
 - b. The terrible cost of sin—death, the spilling of innocent blood.
 - c. The coming, perfect, sinless sacrifice of Christ.
- D. These O.T. shadows, with its temple, priestly services, and sacrifices were fulfilled in Christ.
1. **Christ's ministry** (Heb. 9:11-14 – “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come (**real**), with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation (**real**).¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves (**shadow**), but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption (**real**).¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh (**shadow**),¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (**real**)”).
 - a. Christ came bring the real things, spiritual things, the eternal things that truly save!
 - b. Thus, the O.T. shadows pointed to Christ and were fulfilled in Christ.
 2. **All Christians** serve as true, spiritual priests in Christ.
 - a. We are a holy priesthood in God's spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 – “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”).
 - b. We serve in the newness of the Spirit, not by the shadow of the Law (Rom. 7:6 – “But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. There is much to be learned and appreciated about our salvation and service in Christ found in studying O.T. shadows! (Rom. 15:4 – “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”).
2. It is my hope that as we examine this biblical theme that we will grow in our understanding and ultimately in our faith in Christ and the wonders of the salvation He has brought to us!
3. If you would like to be a part of the real thing, the only truly real and lasting thing in this world, will you come to Christ today B-R-C-BP-LF?