

Types & Shadows

There are those who believe that the bible is a 'flat' book. They believe that whatever is in the OT is applicable for the NT, so there's a propensity to take everything from the OT and include it in the NT. So, whatever is appropriate for the Old Covenant (OC) they believe is appropriate for the New Covenant (NC).

This has its place with blessings, in that the NC is better than the OC, but we've got to be careful how we do this transfer. For example, there are those who eat only Jewish kosher foods because they believe that's for us today and if we don't follow the food rules then we are disobeying God. This of course is a fear-based attitude, not an action based on faith¹ which is the NC or Kingdom lifestyle.

This attitude to food is interesting because Peter was shown a vision² of all sorts of foods which included non-kosher items, such as eel and pig, which they were not allowed to eat. The Lord told him to rise up, kill and eat, but Peter refused. God wanted him to comply with his request because what he declares as 'clean'³ is 'clean'.⁴

There was also the instance where Paul writes in the NT that there will be false teaching brought in which forbid people to marry and forbid them to eat certain foods, such as meat.⁵ Again, people can take Paul's teaching about being single⁶ and take the original food mandated by God back in Genesis to eat the 'fruit' of plants⁷, and say, "This is what we read from the Bible, which is a 'flat' book, so we should be doing it because it's in the word of God".

We need to be wise.

One of the things that helps us in wisdom is an understanding of types & shadows. Types are things which are a prophetic representation of something in the future. They have foreshadowing characteristics of a better thing that is to come. They are something that prefigures another.⁸

We may not have had extensive teaching in this area, but we will have received some. For example:

1. Israel crossing the Jordan River⁹ – We should know that this is a *type* of baptism.
2. Israel coming out of Egypt¹⁰ – We should know that this is a *type* of the new birth, of coming out of the world kingdom into the Kingdom of God.
3. Adam – He is a type of Christ.¹¹ This is not explained in Paul's teaching, only stated. The possible interpretation occurs in a letter to the Corinthians.¹²
4. OT offices – These are types of Christ's offices¹³: e.g. the High Priest was a type of Jesus our High Priest.¹⁴
5. Hagar – A type of those under bondage to the OC.¹⁵

1 – Galatians 3:12

2 – Acts 10:9-16

3 – i.e. kosher

4 – Acts 10:15

5 – 1 Timothy 4:3

6 – 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

7 – Genesis 1:29; 2:16

8 – See 1 Peter 3:21 "This water prefigures baptism, which now saves you" (in KJV, KJ21, MOUNCE, NET, NRSV translations)

9 – Joshua 3:1-6, 14-17

10 – Exodus 12:33-40

11 – Romans 5:14

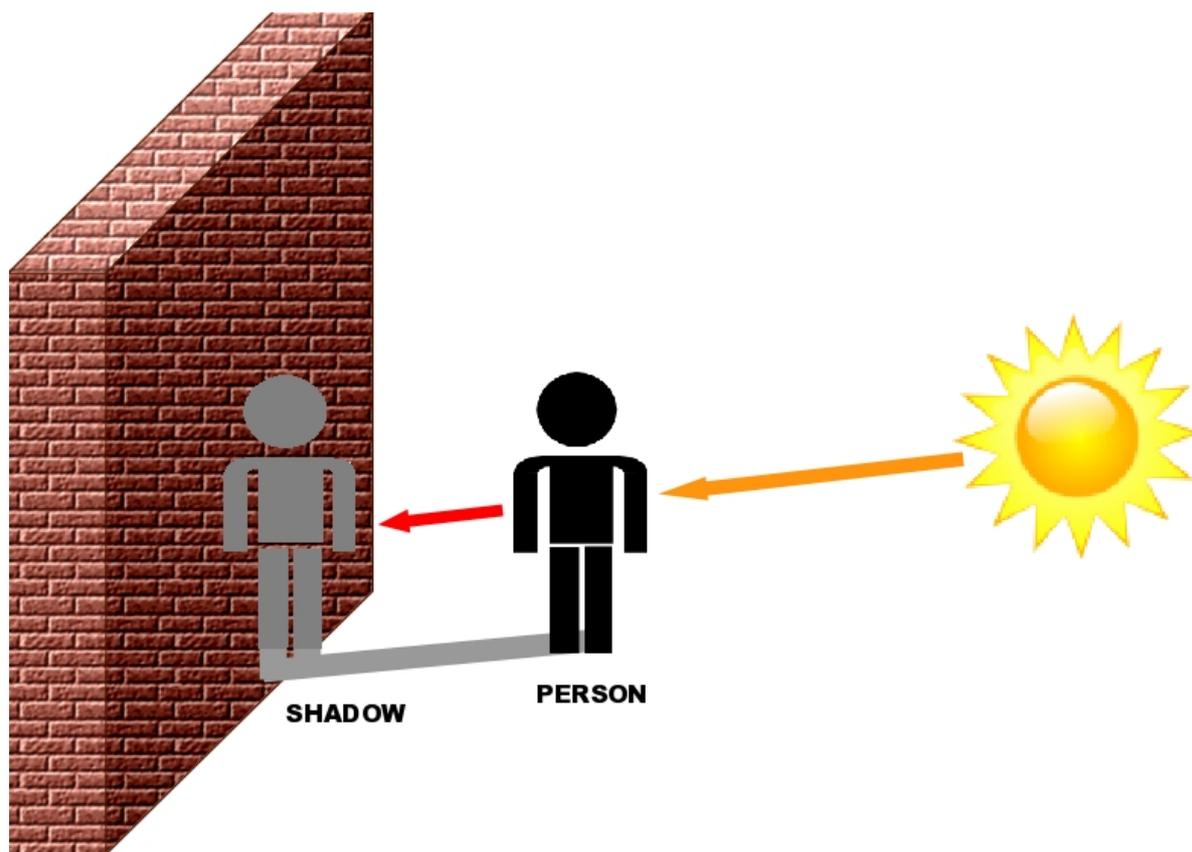
12 – 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

13 – See list: Kevin J. Connor (1980) "Interpreting the Symbols and Types" Bible Temple – Connor Publications: Portland, Oregon p:50

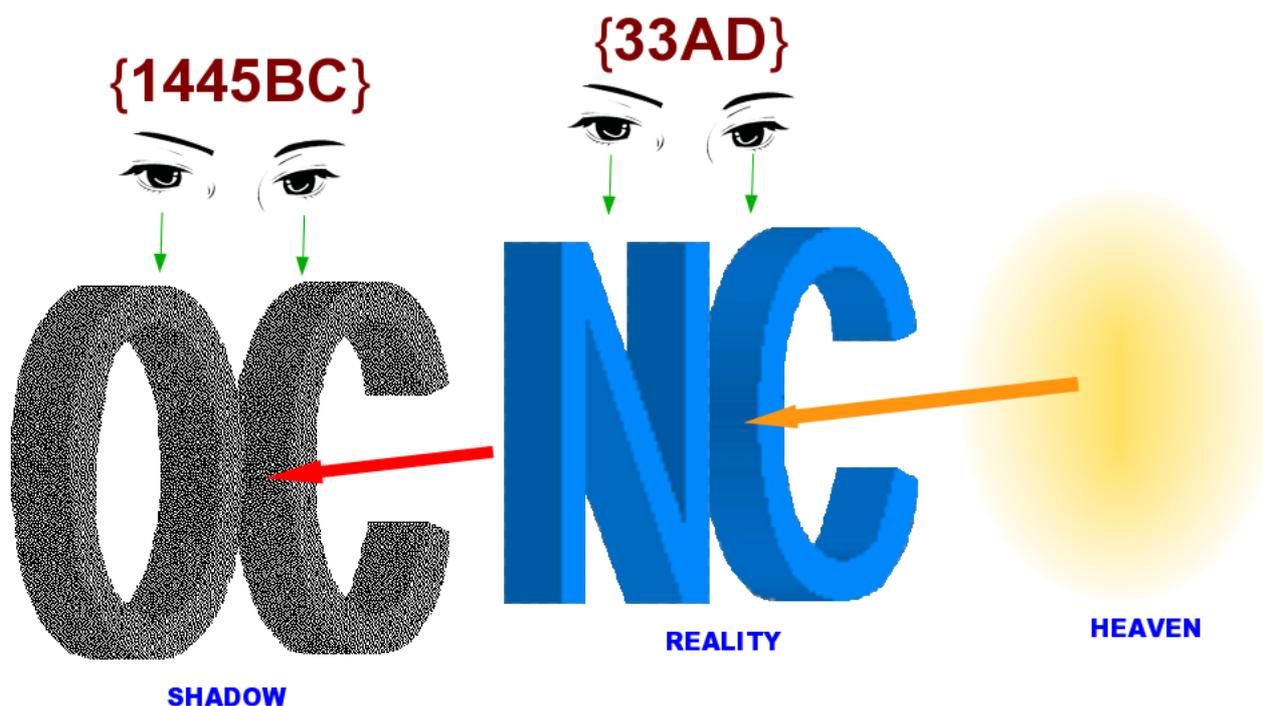
14 – Hebrews 5:1-5

15 – Galatians 4:24-25

Shadows on the other hand are inferior things from the past which allude to perfect things of the future. A shadow is always inferior, a poor representation of a real thing.



A spiritual shadow basically means that the light of God shines on something glorious in the future and all that people see in their day and their time is the shadow of it. So, they work with the shadow because the reality is in the future. The ultimate aim is for everyone to eventually be with the reality, not the shadow – but this is only for some future time.



The bible is not a ‘flat’ book.

We must have wisdom and understanding in our beliefs, otherwise, legalism takes over. We then become negative and internalized, and we don't have the liberty of the gospel that is rightfully ours and which Paul was so eager to maintain¹⁶. The book of Galatians was written to those had gone back into legalism,¹⁷ albeit Judaism¹⁸. There's all sorts of legalism that we can get into. For example: we can become legal about only eating fruit because this is what the original diet was for humans as given to us by our Creator. But in doing so we are ignoring the fact that at the conclusion of the Noah's flood when God re-establish his covenant with humanity¹⁹, he allowed us to eat meat²⁰. He placed in the animals a fear of man²¹ which wasn't there before so that they couldn't be easily killed. So even though we were originally told we could eat the 'fruit' of plants – including nuts and seeds – God declared to us that it was OK to eat meat.

With the NC we must have an understanding of shadows. Most importantly, we must see that the OC was a shadow of the New. It was something that was put in place to prepare the Jews and the gentiles for something in the future. The purpose of the OC was to show that man cannot be perfect by himself, even if he follows rules and regulations, but he will fail. So, because of The Fall, man is unable to please God by being perfect. The failure of the OC was dramatically shown with the ancient Jews. In the fullness of time, when everything was in place, Son came in the body of a man and paid the price for all sin. In the same way that animal sacrifice was a shadow of his sacrifice, once his sacrifice was made there was no longer any need for animal sacrifice because his was perfect.

As I have mentioned in previous talks in this series, the risen man Jesus, the Son in a human body, took his blood into the Holy of Holies of the heavenly temple, and placed it there. In so doing he made a blood covenant between himself and Father – himself representing mankind. He made that covenant with Father for us, on our behalf. That covenant can't be broken by human failings because he made the agreement with Father. Because he is ascended and perfect, and because Father is perfect, that NC can never ever be broken.

As God's *ecclesia* we never made a covenant with God. Israel did. At Mt Sinai they joined in Abraham's covenant by the elders declaring in the presence of Almighty God that they would be his covenant people as descendants of Abraham. The chosen Jewish branch of Abraham's son Isaac would be his covenant people. Humanity has never made such a covenant, never made such an agreement with Almighty God. Instead, with the New Birth, when we are born again, when we come into Father's Kingdom, we come in as sons. As sons, we are adopted into whatever the family covenant is. That's the way covenants work – they operate not just with individuals, but with families, tribes and races of people. So when we're born again, by adoption as sons, we enter into that covenant between Jesus the man and Father.

So, it leaves us now to have a closer look at shadows so that we can be released from the bondage of the OC.

Laurence

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16 – Galatians 5:1

17 – Galatians 3:1-5

18 – Galatians 5:2-6

19 – Genesis 9:7-17

20 – Genesis 9:3

21 – Genesis 9:2