

Biblical Shadows Revealed

One of the critical understandings for Kingdom citizens so they fully function as New Covenant (NC) members is the biblical concept of ‘shadows’. ‘Shadows’ are the preliminary ceremonial activities or objects that precede, or foreshadow, the coming of a ‘reality’. Shadows tutor or point the way to the coming reality which is superior in every way to the shadow. Once the ‘reality’ appears, the ‘shadow’ must be rejected & eliminated, so that life focusses on the essence of substance, leaving behind the preliminary. ‘Shadows’ are normally OT and ‘realities’ are NT, released under the NC.

Here’s a quote to help reinforce our understanding of on biblical ‘shadows’.

“[T]hese heavenly realities put their earthly counterparts into proper perspective. God graciously gave the earthly shadows to meet man’s needs for the moment and to prepare the way for the vastly greater heavenly realities which would be realized in Christ. Hebrew Christians would not do well to return to the inferior prototypes, since these could never make one perfect – that is, they could never draw one into an intimate and lasting relationship with God. That could only be done in the person and work of Christ. His work of making atonement for our sins, once for all, was accomplished at Calvary. His work of continually interceding on our behalf as our Great High Priest continues until we have been perfected by our resurrection and transformation when He returns to Earth to establish His kingdom. To return to Judaism is to embrace the symbols, but to reject the substance. What a terrible mistake this would be.

Finally, these heavenly realities mean that we are no longer bound to the culturally restrictive rituals that were required of the Old Testament people of God, and this has tremendous implications for our worship and evangelism.”¹

SHADOW	REALITY	REFERENCE
‡Tabernacle ²	Tabernacle in Heaven	Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:11, 24; Exodus 26:30
‡High Priest	Christ	Hebrews 8:1-5
‡Sanctuary	Sanctuary in Heaven	Hebrews 8:1-5
‡Law ³	Spirit-led Kingdom life	Hebrews 10:1; Galatians 3:24
‡Food Laws	Christ	Colossians 2:16-17
‡Sabbaths ⁴	Christ	Colossians 2:16-17; Matthew 11:28-29; Hebrews 4:10; Matthew 12:8
‡Holy Days (Feasts/Festivals)	Christ	Colossians 2:16-17
Sacrifice	Christ’s death	Hebrews 10:1-3; 9:11-15
Temple	Temple in Heaven	Acts 7:44
Temple	Christ	John 2:21; Revelation 21:22
Sanctuary Curtain	Jesus’ flesh	Hebrews 10:19-20
Wilderness Manna	Christ	John 6:30-33, 55
Passover Lamb	Christ the Lamb of God	John 1:29, 36; 1 Corinthians 5:7
Wilderness Rock	Christ	1 Corinthians 10:4
Ceremonial Worship ³	Spiritual worship	John 4:23-24
Scapegoat ³	Christ’s atonement	Hebrews 10:16-17; Leviticus 16:8-10, 20-22

‡ - Actually referred to as a “shadow” in scripture.

1 – Robert (Bob) Deffinbaugh (2008) “18. From Shadows to Substance” (bible.org/seriespage/18-shadows-substance-hebrews-726-8

[From the series: ‘Near to the Heart of God: A Study of the Book of Hebrews’]

2 – See my article in the series “7-The Tabernacle: A Shadow of Heaven”

3 – See the topic of the same name at the end of this document

4 – This will be the next topic in the series (#9)

Hebrews 8:1-5 (NKJV) – *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 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.”*

Hebrews 10:1 (AMP) – *For since **the Law** has merely a rude outline (foreshadowing) of the good things to come—instead of fully expressing those things—it can never by offering the same sacrifices continually year after year make perfect those who approach [its altars].*

Colossians 2:16-17 (AMP) – *Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of food and drink, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a Sabbath. Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ.*

The Law

The Law (*nomos*, νόμος) in the NT – especially in the book of Hebrews – refers to the whole OT Law, not just the ceremonial law. Vine states:

“Circumcision belongs to the ceremonial part of the "Law", but, while the Mosaic Law is actually divisible into the ceremonial and the moral, no such distinction is made or even assumed in Scripture. The statement maintains the freedom of the believer from the "law" of Moses in its totality as a means of justification.”⁵

The OT Law was a shadow of the Spirit-led life in the Kingdom. For example, true circumcision which God requires is about the heart, not the body.

Romans 2:29a (AMP) – *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and [true] circumcision is of the heart, a spiritual and not a literal [matter].*

The Law does not apply to Kingdom sons. This is why:

- **Jesus** did not adhere perfectly to the Law, but he still performed his duties as a Jew. He broke the Sabbath many times⁶; he allowed his disciples to break the Sabbath⁷; he broke the racial laws⁸; and he desecrated the solemnity of the temple with his actions⁹.
- **Paul** was able to operate in complete liberty, declaring that he could do anything he liked, but he chose what was good for him.¹⁰ However, he continued with many traditions of the Law because he was a Jew.¹¹
- The **Jews** in the early church gave up animal sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin¹², but followed Jewish Law and traditions because they were Jews by nationality.¹³

5 – ‘Law’: Vine’s Expository Dictionary (www.menfak.no/bibelprog/vines?word=%AFt0001612)

6 – John 9:16; Mark 3:1-5

7 – Matthew 12:1-8

8 – John 4:7-9

9 – Matthew 21:12

10 – 1 Corinthians 6:12

11 – Acts 18:18, 21; 20:16

12 – Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14

13 – Acts 21:24

- The Jewish church elders (**Apostles**) in Jerusalem freed the gentile believers from the whole Law.¹⁴ They only advised them of some safe spiritual practices to keep them from straying back into heathenism.¹⁵ They counselled them to keep themselves from:
 - things offered to idols,
 - sacrificial blood,
 - eating strangled animals, &
 - sexual immorality.

So, what part of the Law do we keep as Kingdom sons? None. For example: tithing is not a NT teaching. This only became an advocated requirement as a biblical foundation from about the 4th Century AD.¹⁶

Our responsibility is to do what pleases our King by following the Spirit, and doing what builds us up into spiritual maturity. We are also to carefully maintain our salvation by not returning to a life of wanton sin. This is the liberty¹⁷ we have in Christ, who has freed us, and so we don't go back into bondage to sin or to religion and legalism.¹⁸

Worship

“Now let me draw out some implications of this for the life of worship. The High Priesthood of Jesus – the coming of the reality instead of the shadow – fulfills and brings to an end the physical center of Old Testament worship, the tabernacle and the temple. It fulfills and brings to an end the official priesthood. It fulfills and brings to an end the sacrificial offerings. It fulfills and brings to an end the dietary laws. It fulfills and brings to an end the priestly vestments. It fulfills and brings to an end the seasonal acts of atonement and reconciliation.

What this means, in essence, is that the entire worship life of the Old Testament has been radically refocused onto Jesus himself and has become a radically *spiritual* thing, as opposed to an *external* thing. The external is still important, but now the spiritual is so radically pervasive that virtually all of external life, not just church life, is the expression of worship. "Present your bodies as living sacrifices which is your reasonable service of worship"¹⁹ That's all the time and everywhere. "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"²⁰ – all the time, everywhere. The money that the Philippians sent to Paul he says in 4:18 was ‘a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God’.

In the New Testament, all the focus is on the reality of the glory of Christ, not the shadow and copy of religious objects and forms. It is stunning how indifferent the New Testament is to such things: there is no authorization in the New Testament for worship buildings, or worship dress, or worship times, or worship music, or worship liturgy or worship size or thirty-five-minute sermons, or Advent poems or choirs or instruments or candles. In fact, the act of getting together as Christians in the New Testament to sing or pray or hear the word of God is never even called worship. I wonder if we do not distort the Biblical meaning of “worship” by using the word almost entirely for an event for which the New Testament *never* uses the word.

But all of this makes us very free and, perhaps, very frightened. Free to find place and time and dress and size and music and elements and objects that help us orient radically toward the supremacy of God in Christ. And frightened, perhaps, because almost every worship tradition we have is culturally shaped rather than Biblically commanded. The command is a radical connection of love and trust and obedience to Jesus Christ in all of life.”²¹

14 – Acts 15:10, 28; 21:25

15 – Acts 15:29; 21:25

16 – Frank Viola “Tithing and Clergy Salaries” (truthforfree.com/html/article_Tithing-and-Clergy-Salaries.html)

17 – 1 Corinthians 8:9; 10:29; 2 Corinthians 3:17 (Galatians 2:4)

18 – Galatians 5:1, 13

19 – Romans 12:1

20 – 1 Corinthians 10:31

21 – John Piper (1996) “Our High Priest is The Son of God Perfect Forever”

(www.desiringgod.org/messages/our-high-priest-is-the-son-of-god-perfect-forever)

Scapegoat

“The scapegoat is a type or figure of Christ’s atonement to save mankind in the Old Testament Sanctuary service...”

Why Jesus is Our Scapegoat:

1. Jesus bore our sins at Calvary.
2. Jesus died in our place the death we deserved to die.
3. Jesus’ death on the cross fulfilled the figure of the atonement of the two goats. Our sins were atoned by the shed blood of the Lord’s goat and removed from us completely by the Living Scapegoat, Jesus.
4. Jesus, in bearing the sins of God’s people makes our salvation a reality even though we are not worthy.”²²

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22 – Robert K. Sanders “Your Scapegoat: Satan or Jesus?” (www.truthorfables.com/Scapegoat.htm)