

THE SHADOW OF THE OT

Thursday Bible Study
ACA Avadi Church
04 April 2024

Psalm 119:18 -

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

READ TO UNDERSTAND

Ephesians 3:4 (T-5)

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, **when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**)

WE HAVE TO READ THE BIBLE AS ONE UNIFIED STORY:

- Creation explains **the way things were**
- The Fall explains **the way things are**
- Redemption shows **the way things could be**
- Restoration shows **the way things will be**

WHY WE SHOULD NOT DISCARD THE OT?

Matthew 13:51-52 -

Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old."

Paul to the Ephesian Elders

Acts 20:25-27 -

25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. 27 For **I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.**

WHY OLD TESTAMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS?

1. THE OT MAKES UP THREE-FOURTHS (75.55 PERCENT) OF OUR BIBLE.
2. THE OT CONTAINS THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD, HUMANS, AND THE GOSPEL.

The OT substantially influences our understanding of key biblical teachings.

Thus, without a knowledge of the OT, Christians are left in the dark

3. THE NT IS RELIANT UPON THE OT

PAUL'S EPISTLES WERE FILLED WITH OT SCRIPTURES

- The Complete Jewish Bible version points out 183 *Old Testament* passages that Paul quotes or paraphrases in his writings.

4. THE OT WAS THE ONLY BIBLE OF JESUS

5. THE OT WAS THE BIBLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH
6. WE MEET THE SAME GOD IN BOTH TESTAMENTS.
7. IN OT JESUS IS CONCEALED. IN NT JESUS IS REVEALED

- God has taught His redemptive plan through a preordained representation of truths in the OT.
- God used persons, events, and institutions of the O.T. as a shadow of things to come

Colossians 2:16-17

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are **a shadow of things to come**, but the substance is of Christ.

- **The Mosaic system, for example, was a kind of kindergarten in which God's people were trained in divine things and taught to look forward to the realities of things yet to come.**

A COPY - A SHADOW - A PATTERN

சாயல் - நிழல் - மாதிரி

Hebrews 8:1-6 (NLT)

Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. 2 There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. 3 And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too.

4 If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law.

5 They serve in a system of worship that is **only a copy, a shadow of the real one** in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to **the pattern** I have shown you here on the mountain."

6 But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

A SHADOW - A Dim Preview (நிழல்)

Hebrews 10:1-5

1 The old system under the law of Moses was **only a shadow, a dim preview** of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. 2 If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.

3 But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. 4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 That is why, when

Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer.

A COPY (சாயல்)

Hebrews 9:23

That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were **copies of things in heaven**, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals.

An ILLUSTRATION

ஒப்பனை

Hebrews 9:9-10

9 This is **an illustration** pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. 10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

A REPRESENTATION

முன்னடையாளம்

Romans 5:14

Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now **Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ**, who was yet to come.

- **Some make nearly every person and event of the O.T. typical.**
- Such a method of interpretation leads to confusion and a wrong understanding of the Word of God.
- Searching for hidden meaning in every passage and pressing the typical teaching so far imperils the literal teachings and soundness of many biblical truths.
- Everything in Scripture intended as a divine type is confirmed by at least two or three plain statements in God's Word.

"In the mouth of two or three witnesses" applies to this subject as much as any other doctrine of the Bible (**Dt.19:15; Mt.18:16; 2 Cor.13:1**).

Four Classes of Types

I. Typical Persons:

1. Adam was a type of Christ who was yet to come (Rom. 5:12-21; 2 Cor. 15:45-49).
2. Melchizedek was a type of the eternal priesthood of Christ (Gen.14:18-24; Heb. 5:5-9; 6:20; 7:1-10, 17); a type of combined kingship and priesthood (Heb. 7:1-3 with Zech. 6:12-13); and a type of eternal existence (Heb. 7:3, 6 with Mic. 5:1-2; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:8).
3. Abraham offering up his only promised son was a type of God offering His only begotten Son (Gen. 22; Jn. 3:16; Heb. 11:17-19).

4. Isaac was a type of the resurrection of Christ ([Gen. 22](#); [Heb. 11:19](#)).
5. Moses was a type of Christ as the prophet of God ([Dt. 18:15-19](#); [Acts 3:19-26](#)), and of faithfulness ([Heb. 3:1-6](#)).
6. Aaron was a type of the high priesthood of Christ ([Heb. 5:1-5](#)).
7. Jonah was a type of the death, burial, descension (into the lower parts of the earth for three days), and resurrection of Christ ([Jonah 2](#); [Mt. 12:40](#); [Eph.4:8-10](#)).

II. Typical Events:

1. The flood was typical of baptism ([1 Pet. 3:20-21](#)).
2. Some of the events during Israel's wandering in the wilderness were typical of things Christians would face ([2 Cor. 10:1-13](#)).
3. The lifting up of the brazen serpent in the wilderness was typical of the crucifixion of Christ and benefits of the cross to be realized by others ([Jn. 3:14](#); [Num. 21](#)).

III. Typical Acts:

1. Smiting the rock as in Ex. 17 was typical of Christ being crucified or smitten for men ([2 Cor. 10:4](#)).
2. Smiting the rock the second time instead of speaking to it was typical of crucifying Christ afresh ([Num. 20](#); [2 Cor. 10:4](#); [Heb. 6:6](#)).
3. Rejecting the chief cornerstone was typical of the rejection of Christ ([Isa. 28:16](#); [Mt. 21:42](#)).
4. The many acts of the priests in the tabernacle worship were typical of various aspects of redemption through Christ: killing animals; shedding and sprinkling blood; burning incense; the showbread; lighting lamps; and the daily and yearly rituals were all typical acts, fulfilled in Christ and His redemptive work ([Heb. 7:11-28](#); [8:1-6](#); [9:1-28](#); [10:1-22](#)).

IV. Typical Institutions:

1. The whole Mosaic institution of offerings and worship was typical of things to come in the sacrifice and redemptive work of Christ and the worship of God in the true way ([Ex. 12-13](#); [25:1 - 40:38](#); [Heb. 7-10](#)).
2. The Aaronic priesthood, the garments of the priests, and other aspects of the ministry of the law were typical of Christ and His redemptive work ([Ex. 28-29](#); [Heb. 7-10](#)).
3. The sabbath for Israel was typical of the eternal rest in Christ and of that which is to come for all the redeemed ([Ex. 20:8-11](#); [31:12-18](#); [Dt. 5:15](#); [Heb. 4](#)).
4. The feasts of Israel were typical of various aspects of redemption through Christ ([Ex. 12](#); [Lev. 23](#); [2 Cor. 5:7](#); [Heb. 5-10](#)).
5. The temple and all the rituals of worship carried on in it were typical of the same things the tabernacle and its worship were typical of.
6. The tabernacle and temple, their compartments, and furniture were themselves typical of the heavenly tabernacle Christ entered into ([Heb. 8:1-5](#); [9:1-10](#), [23-24](#)).