

A Copy And Shadow

4-6-25

Hebrews 8:5 (ESV)

They (the earthly) serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.

The OT, the priest, the sacrifices, the temple, and temple worship were only a copy and a shadow of heavenly things. This complements the fact that the Bible is the unfolding revelation of Christ and the redemption of man. The Bible is the revealing of Christ.

When we understand this, the Bible opens up to us. We are then able to interpret its deep truths. For instance, previously we were introduced to a mystery person, Melchizedek. When we believe the OT is a physical picture of NT spiritual truths that reveal Christ, we easily can see how Melchizedek would be an OT picture of Christ. Based on this principle, Hebrews Chapters 8, 9, and 10 gives us an in-depth teaching on how the OT copies and shadows gives us physical pictures of NT realities. With this in mind, we see the reality of Jesus as the Great High Priest, the minister of the holy places in heaven.

Hebrews 8:1–2 (ESV)

¹ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

This statement is revolutionary for Jews and Gentiles alike. Jesus is at the right hand of God. Jesus is ministering in heaven. Now after this explanation of the heavenly temple and ministry, we skip down to verse 5 and see the purpose of the physical earthly pictures.

Hebrews 8:5 (ESV)

They (the earthly) serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.

Brothers and sisters, we need to grasp what God is telling us. No more physical pictures. They were just copies and shadows. Now we have the real thing. Jesus has a much more excellent ministry than the old covenant and HIS new covenant is empowered by better promises.

Hebrews 8:6 (NIV)

The ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the (new) covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

To tie this OT picture to the NT spiritual realities, Hebrews 8:8-12 quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34 verbatim. Look at Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31 (NIV)

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a NEW COVENANT.

Jeremiah describes the New coming Covenant by Jesus. Summary: The main points in Jeremiah that makes the Covenant, New. O/H

- I will put MY Law in their minds.
- I will write MY Law on their hearts.
- I will be their God.
- They will not have to teach each other.
- They will all be MY people.
- They will all know ME.
- I will remember their sins no more.

Brothers and sisters, we are under the New Covenant. We need to live like we are under the New Covenant in which we receive forgiveness through Jesus but also tells us:

Galatians 5:18 (ESV)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Hebrews ends this chapter with a strong admonition. God is saying, “Pay Attention!”

Hebrews 8:13 (ESV)

In speaking of a NEW COVENANT, HE makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The old covenant of the LAW is obsolete. No more copies; no more shadows. Jesus alone is the reality of the Christian life.

Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV)

¹³ You, who were dead in your trespasses, God made you alive, having forgiven all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.