

Hebrews 8:5

Shadow and substance

There is much lore in our culture about shadows. They seem to be imbued with power to many, they are objects of terror to some, they are the essence of all childhood fears.. But shadows possess these things only in the mind of the person who sees them. For shadows really only have one purpose, they indicate that something else is there, that it is real and that it is coming. It is this fact which terrifies so many, for the thing they dread above all is indeed there. Death waits for all men and in death we come face to face with the terror of the judgement seat of God. The shadows of the Old Testament are shadows of promise and hope, but when we stretch them out of proportion, or make of them something they were never meant to be, they cease being promise and become omens of dread. Shadows simply indicate the presence of the real, and for those of us in Christ, this is no terror but hope. Hope of promises fulfilled, hope of a home we have never known except in our most precious dreams, hope of a Father who loves us.

I. SHADOWS MIMIC

- A. They are images cast from the real
- B. They appear solid and true
- C. They can be distorted
- D. They are never as beautiful nor wondrous as the real
- E. They do not demonstrate the fullness of the detail
- F. They must be sourced and connected to the real

II. SHADOWS PROMISE

- A. They promise that the real is in fact there
- B. They are, by definition, less than the real
- C. They represent, in part, but also obscure that which they represent by the nature of their essence
- D. They have no meaning, power or purpose if disconnected from the real
- E. In the presence of the real they only obscure that it has, in fact, come
- F. They are harbingers of the coming real

III. THE LEVITICAL WORSHIP IS SHADOW

A. It was a shadow of the Gospel

1. A promise that there was something in the wind that would bring us to God forever

Acts 3.19-26

2. A promise that forgiveness was a possibility, but that we haven't seen the coming of the real yet
3. A promise that God was working to bring us to Himself
4. A promise that His plan was going to succeed

B. Shadow temple

1. A representative of the true temple in heaven (pattern shown on the mountain)
2. The most glorious display possible here, but far less than what they represent
3. Never intended to be permanent NOR necessary once the real was here

C. Shadow priests

1. Acted a part
2. Necessary for the short term

3. Ended with the coming of the real
4. No longer serve a purpose
5. Can only distract from the glory of the real

D. Shadow practices

1. Showbread
2. Incense
3. Lampstands
4. Altar
5. Mercy seat

E. Shadow sacrifices

1. Insubstantial
2. Impermanent
3. Ineffective

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4, NKJV)

4. Mere placeholders

F. Shadow offerings

1. The work of offering itself was unable to finally accomplish what it was aiming at

“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:11, NKJV)

2. The gifts of the people were accepted by God in lieu of that which was coming

3. God overlooked the barriers for the purpose of the relationship He would provide

“whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

(Romans 3:25–26, NKJV)

G. Shadow forgiveness

1. Temporary

2. Incomplete

3. Constantly eroded by sin

4. Weak and frail

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SUBSTANCE

A. He dwells in the real temple at the right hand of the Majesty on High

“who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our

sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (Hebrews 1:3, NKJV)

- B. He is the one true High priest who is worthy to offer sacrifices before the throne of mercy

Revelation 5

- C. He is the only source of true worship

1. He alone is the path to God

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

(John 14:6, NKJV)

2. He is the bread that came down from heaven

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”” (John 6:51, NKJV)

3. He gave the Spirit who carries our prayers before God

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit

is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26–27, NKJV)

4. He is the light of the world and the only expression of truth

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”” (John 8:12, NKJV)

5. He is the good shepherd who leads His people to a relationship with God

John 10.7-16

*“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
(John 17:3, NKJV)*

- D. He is the true sacrifice, He alone takes away the sin of the world

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29, NKJV)

- E. He alone offers that sacrifice and all other offerings

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever

those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:12–14, NKJV)

1. No other is worthy to approach the throne
2. No other has an offering worthy to be considered, let alone be accepted
3. No other has the honor of heaven as his own right

F. He alone is the path to forgiveness and a relationship with God that is unbreakable.

1. He has removed the barrier

Ephesians 2.14-18

2. He has torn down the dividing wall
3. He has rent the veil

“Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (Mark 15:38, NKJV)

4. He has atoned for our sin and removed our guilt

“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:17, NKJV)

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 2:2, NKJV)

5. Nothing is able to overcome what He has accomplished.

V. JESUS CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL

A. Because He is the substance of the gospel

1. The substance of the promise
2. The substance of the labor
3. The substance of its fulfillment

B. The good news that forgiveness is real

C. The good news that God is author of that forgiveness and so will suffer nothing that attempts to remove it

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10, NKJV)

D. The good news that we have NOTHING to do with our salvation

E. The good news that we can do NOTHING that God would not forgive

F. The good news that this hope is alive in Him and that it can be yours when you cry out for mercy

G. The good news that all who come to Jesus will be received and will NEVER be cast off

*“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”
(John 6:37, NKJV)*

H. The good news that NOTHING can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37–39, NKJV)