

THE LAW WAS A SHADOW

Hebrews 10:1-5.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Living In The Shadows.

¹For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

³But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

⁵Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

⁷Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

⁸Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

Introduction:

When we were kids we liked to play the game of making animal shadows on the walls of our house.

To make shadows of animals you would use the light shining behind your hands and fingers to cast a shadow on the walls. We could simulate rabbits, birds, and many other types of animals.

Of course much of it lent itself to your imagination and you had to pretend that you could see the animal you were trying to make. Nevertheless, the point is this.

1. Such was the case with the Law in the Old Testament. It was full of shadows of our Lord.
2. The people started off believing in the Lord, and then their hearts began to harden.
3. All the while the Lord was seen in the shadows of the OT.

But even as the people saw and heard of God in the OT, they began to stray.

God had given them the moral laws. The 10 commandments.

1. But yet they strayed from him, even as they do today.
2. God had made a covenant with Abraham. A promise that he would keep.
3. But as we read in Galatians 3:6ff, we see the Mosaic Law come into effect as a school teacher.

The book of Galatians 3: informs us of just how bad man had strayed from God. It was necessary for the guard rails to be put in place with the Mosaic Law. Until such time when Jesus Christ would come, and do away with the Mosaic Law.

1. The Moral law essentially is the 10 commandments.
 2. The Mosaic Law was done away with when Christ came.
 3. The ceremonial laws have also ceased when Christ came.
- A. It is the Mosaic Law which was the schoolmaster to bring us into Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- B. The signed covenant that God had made with Abraham had not been changed. That agreement was still effectually in place. The Mosaic dispensation was to correct and bring Gods people back in line unto him.
- C. But after that faith is come we are no longer under a school master. (Gal 3:24-25).
- D. The OT shows us many signs and wonders all pointing to Christ in the NT.
1. However it was not always apparent to those at the time living under the law.
 2. The Mosaic law ended when our Lord came.
 3. The Mosaic covenantal arrangement was a rigid and strict tutor to bring people unto Christ and justification by faith in him.
 4. The schoolmaster was not an illustration of the moral law. It was appended to the promise that God had previously given to Abraham.
 5. It can clearly be seen in Galatians 3:16 that God made promises to Abraham and his seed.

Galatians 3:16 ¹⁶Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; **but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

- This was in essence a signed agreement that could not be changed. This was Gods promise to Abraham and God would not break His promise.
- But now.....as Christ came. The temporary if you will the Mosaic covenant would fall away. Why? Because the Mosaic covenant which had been established has served its purpose as the schoolmaster to bring people to God.

6. For after the full revelation of the truth in which we believe is the schoolmaster which has been dismissed.
 - As we looked into the deity of our Lord on previous occasions we were able to recognise many of those fulfilments which were spoken of in the OT.
1. Now this morning I would like for us to focus on what the coming of the Lord means to us all.
2. A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ. (Gal 2:16)

As we look into the shadows we see things not too clearly. We know that there is something there but we not to sure of what it is.

- And this is what the scripture of Hebrews is revealing to us.
 1. Also when Mica the priest sent out the warnings through scripture in Mica 6:6 he was warning Israel the people of God.
 2. In this particular instance he was warning the Northern Kingdom Israel and Judah the Southern Kingdom that God was to be worshipped.
 3. That God commanded repentance towards believing in him and that God was not satisfied with just burnt offerings. In (742-687 B.C.) This scene is described in (2 Kings 15-20) and (2 Chronicles 26-30). Mica was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.

He was conveying to the people that they needed to know that it was not the blood of bulls or burnt offering that they needed to come to God with. But that they needed to come in faith believing that God would save them.

Mica 6:6 ⁶Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

Hebrews 10:1 ¹**For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things,** can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

A. THE LAW HAD A SHADOW.

1. So often as we read the bible we see Christ our Lord mentioned over and over in the OT. This is where we see Christ as a shadow to come.
2. He was mentioned over and over again, yet no one had seen Him. He in essence was the invisible God.
3. Yes the scripture speaks of "Him" as the shadow of good things to come.
4. Although they could not see Him, the scripture revealed him.
5. Yet the very image of Christ would take another few thousand years to be finally revealed.
6. Yet those sacrifices that were carried out in his name year on year would never be sufficient to take away sin completely.

7. Yet this stands as a picture of what Christ would do in the future, and has done so today.

Hebrews 10:2 ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

B. THE LAW HAD A CONSCIENCE

1. Can you imagine what the scripture is saying to us here?
2. If it were possible that the blood of bulls could clear away our sins then the need for repentance toward Jesus Christ for the purging of sin would not be necessary anymore?
3. If it were possible then they would have altogether stopped worshipping and sacrificing to God.
4. If it was the case that they could have offered the blood of bulls in that way, then their conscience would have been cleared, and they would have had no more conscience of sins?
5. But the Law brought about that conscience. It was the moral law that God had written on their hearts.

Hebrews 10:3 ³But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

C. THE LAW HAD A SACRIFICE

1. With the law written on their hearts Gods people knew very well when they were sinning. They knew that our Holy God would not tolerate sin, and un-repentance toward Gods justice.
2. With the law on their hearts their conscience was seared. They could not escape their guilt.
3. But in those sacrifices there was a remembrance again made of sins every year.
4. People gathered for sacrifices on the Day of Atonement. They were reminded of their sins and they felt guilty all over again.
5. Animal sacrifices could not take away sin, they provided only a temporary way of exhibiting the dealings with their sin until Jesus Christ would come and deal with it.
6. O.T. believers were following Gods command and he graciously forgave them when, by faith they believed in him, and made their sacrifice.

D. THE LAW HAD LIMITATIONS

Hebrews 10:5 ⁵Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

1. When our Lord stepped from the shadows of the OT in to the light of the NT where we could now see him, everything changed.

2. The previous sacrifices were insufficient for a pure and righteous and holy God.
3. Therefore a body of sacrifice was prepared. One that could be and would be the ultimate sacrifice for the wages of sin.
4. A sacrifice so perfect that once made would not be necessary ever again.
5. A sacrifice that would be complete in every way.
6. No longer would the high priests who made the sacrifices year on year continue to stand and perform them.
7. But a sufficient and complete sacrifice would be made where upon the great "High Priest" our Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ would sit down at the right hand of God.
8. Signifying no more sacrifices were needed ever again.

E. THE LAW HAD A REVELATION

Hebrews 10:6-8 ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. ⁸Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

- This would see the fulfilment of the scriptures as described by the Psalmist in Psalm 40.

Psalm 40:6-8 ⁶Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. ⁷Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, ⁸I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

1. The bible speaks about the fullness of time.
2. When the fullness of time had come God sent forth His Son, made of a woman made under the law.
3. And why did God send forth his Son? The question can be asked.
4. The answer to that it was to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoptions of sons.

Galatians 4:4-5 ⁴But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

- F. Our Lord would come to take away the necessity of burnt offerings in which God had no pleasure in them.
- G. Our Lord would come and in that day he would be that sacrificial lamb.
- H. Led as a sheep to the slaughter as Isaiah would even begin to tell us.
- I. Dumb before his shearers so opened he not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:6-12

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou **shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹**He shall see of the travail of his soul**, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; **for he shall bear their iniquities.**

¹²Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; **and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

- A. There are no more shadows to face in the Lord.
- B. There are no more things to fulfil.
- C. There is only but to trust him, and obey him in every way.

He said all that the Father had given Him, that he had finished on the cross.

The Lord will come again, in like manner as we saw Him go, and then we will see him as he is.

The day is coming.

PRAY.....