

The Road to the Cross... Shadows Point to Light

We've spent weeks breathing the thin, exhilarating air of Moriah, Sinai, Carmel, and more. Yet, we must remember that the path to glory always winds through the shadows. Today, we begin at the beginning—not in the light, but in the long shadows of the Old Testament that point us toward the Hill of Calvary.

As Easter approaches, we're going to spend time looking at the "shadows" cast across the Old Testament. And, these aren't just stories. They are mile markers and a roadmap to a Savior promised long ago. Let's walk this road together.

What is a shadow?

It isn't the object itself, but it proves the object is real and tells you its shape. In the same way, God's work in the past was a shadow cast backward by Jesus and the cross.

The Nature of a Shadow

1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Hebrews 10:1 NIV

Shadows often represent our seasons of "not yet." They feel dark, uncertain, and incomplete.

Shadows as Mile Markers

The Shadow of Substitute

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." Genesis 22:13-14

Death is required, but a Substitute is coming.

The Shadow of Passover

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. Exodus 12:5a

7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. Exodus 12:7

13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13

Justice will pass over those covered in the blood of the Lamb.

The Shadow of Atonement (Salvation)

21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness. Leviticus 16:21-22

Our sins must be carried far away from us.

The Shadow of the Light of the World

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4-5

The shadow is simply the shape of the Cross falling over your life to protect you until the morning sun rises.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Shadows can be scary because of the unknown. We sometimes hide in the shadows. Where have you hidden or found fear in the shadows of life?

Tuesday – A shadow is created by a light behind an object. The shadow is cast in the shape of the object. God uses these to point us. Where have you seen the “shadows” of a loving God/Savior?

Wednesday – With Abraham, God showed He would provide a substitute. When has someone stepped in for you when you needed it most? How has God protected you even more?

Thursday – In Exodus, God protected His people from eternal death by the blood of the lamb. This pointed to Jesus. What is the difference between physical and spiritual death? How has God raised you to a new spiritual life?

Friday – Jesus is the Light of the world. He came to overcome the world and all sin for those who trust Him as their Lord and Savior. What dark place, or shadow, is God shining a Light on for you? What is drawing you from and to? What is holding you back?