

BIBLE TYPES, SHADOWS AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

Lesson 1 – INTRODUCTION

by Beverly McKey

I. Why Is It Important to Study Types/Shadows in the Old Testament?

- A. There are countless man-made religions that exist in the world today and each has its "holy book" that contains their beliefs and practices.
- B. For simplicity's sake, the following are the top ten religions in the world.
 1. Christianity (2.2 billion followers) - Holy Bible (Old/New Testaments)
 2. Islam (1.6 billion followers) - The Quran
 3. Hinduism (1 billion followers) - The Vedas
 4. Buddhism (376 million followers) - Tripitaka (Pali Canon)
 5. Sikhism (23 million followers) - Guru Granth Sahib
 6. Judaism (14 million followers) - Hebrew Bible (Old Testament only)
 7. Bahá'í (7 million followers) - Kitáb-i-Aqdas
 8. Jainism (4.2 million followers) - Agam Sutras
 9. Shinto (4 million followers) – Kojiki
 10. Zoroastrianism (2.6 million followers) – Avesta
- C. No wonder evil is making such strides in corrupting mankind today.
 1. Billions have forsaken God and are:
 - a. worshipping idols
 - b. following the blatantly erroneous teaching of false teachers and prophets
 - c. accepting the doctrinal errors from imperfect men who mean well but have accepted incorrect Bible teaching themselves.
 - d. Satan's favorite tool must be instilling mankind with total confidence in false doctrine, since one who is confident of their understanding of salvation will not listen to others who may actually be able to expose them to the truth. They are lost and don't even know it.
 2. This has resulted in the development of hundreds of "denominational churches", each teaching something different from the others.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 14:33** – *"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."*
 - b. The Apostles did not establish individual churches with different doctrines from each other (denominations)
 - c. This division among churches defies the example Paul set in establishing churches in the first century: **I Corinthians 4:17** – *"For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as **I teach everywhere in every church.**"*

- d. There were no denominations in the first century. Each church developed as an individual congregation, yet based upon the same doctrinal teaching as other newly established congregations.
 - e. However, even some of those first century Christians insisted upon changing what was taught in the original churches established in the first century.
3. Paul could see the rise of such thinking even while he was traveling from church to church during his life as a missionary preacher of the gospel.
- Galatians 1:6-9** – *"⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."*
- a. This one verse from Paul places a very heavy burden upon the members of each congregation to educate themselves in the truth AND to defend the truth in the face of erroneous teaching.
 - b. While it is our responsibility as Christians to teach others, we must take this responsibility very seriously because we will be "accursed" ourselves if we teach error (even though we do it ignorantly).
 - c. Remember Uzzah – **2 Samuel 6:6-7**
 - 1.) King David was trying to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem.
 - 2.) It was placed on a cart pulled by oxen, instead of having Levites carry it on poles as God had instructed them to do.
 - 3.) Then this happened: *"⁶ And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God."*
 - 4.) Uzzah was not purposely being disobedient; he simply did not know the commandments regarding the transportation of the Ark of the Covenant. He was trying to help, but he ignorantly disobeyed the commandment of God and he paid a heavy price.
 - d. We cannot use ignorance of the scriptures as an excuse for teaching error to others, nor can we use ignorance as an excuse for failure to even try to teach others.
 - 1.) It is our obligation as Christians to learn the truth ourselves.
 - 2.) We only learn how to study the Bible deeply by committing ourselves to such a study.
 - a.) Don't be satisfied to simply READ the Bible.
 - b.) Look for information you have never noticed before.

- c.) Ask yourself questions regarding the meaning of more difficult passages – then search other trusted resources to help you find the scriptural answers. Among those resources may be a knowledgeable fellow Christian.
 - d.) Get a spiral notebook and make notes for yourself regarding your discoveries and questions
 - e.) Read books written by scripturally sound Christians, then expand their study with questions you may have OR challenge their thoughts by confirming what the Bible says regarding their teaching.
 - f.) We will never learn to study the Bible more deeply if we don't start somewhere. A good starting place is to pray for God to give us wisdom as we study and for help to discover the truth in His word.
- 3.) We **must** take our own Bible study so seriously that we are not satisfied until we are certain we have uncovered the truth.
 - 4.) However, it is not enough to uncover the truth for ourselves, we must develop the courage and the confidence in our knowledge to be able to defend the truth of the gospel where ever we encounter error being taught.
 - 5.) We simply must learn how to convince the lost of the reality that the Bible is truly God's word and that it holds all of the answers regarding salvation of one's soul.

II. How can Christians have confidence that the Bible is authentically the word of God? And how can we convince others of that fact?

A. The authorship of the Bible is unique.

- 1. Here are some unique facts about the collection of writings that make up the Bible:
 - a. It was written by forty men from varying backgrounds such as shepherds, kings, fishermen, a physician, a tent maker, a tax collector, etc.
 - b. They were scattered across three continents and 1,500 years in time.
 - c. There were sixty-six segments (books) written in three languages.
 - d. Yet these sixty-six books created a cohesive, unified book that revealed the mind of God, the nature of God, His creation, the history of His people, and His plan for the eternal salvation of mankind.
- 2. The compilation of their writings would be the equivalent of 40 men each creating one unique metal part over 1,500 years, then when they were all collected together, they all fit together perfectly creating a very complicated mechanical machine that was created for the good of mankind. Impossible? Yes, without God's influence, it would be.

B. Most other religious books were from the mind of one person, such as:

- 1. Joseph Smith (founder of Mormons)
- 2. L. Ron Hubbard (founder of Christian Scientists)

3. Charles T. Russell (founder of Jehovah's Witnesses)
 4. Mohammad (founder of Islam/Muslims)
- C. While they claim inspiration or miraculous creation of their books, there is no evidence to support their claims. We are simply asked to take their word for it.
1. The mystery here is how so many could fall for such fiction disguised as religion, when the knowledge of Jehovah God has always been made abundantly available.
 2. The very possibility of being deceived in religious teaching is the reason we must take responsibility for understanding God's word for ourselves.
 3. If we receive erroneous instructions on how to get to New York City and we wind up in Chicago, obviously our source was a poor one, but the result was still that we ended up in Chicago, not New York City.
 4. Those who depend upon erroneous sources for their information on salvation will find themselves lead down the broad path Jesus described (**Matthew 7:13**). Although they may have been misinformed, their destination will still not be where they intended to go.
 5. How do we know this? Jesus told us so: **Matthew 7:21-23** – ²¹ *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.* ²² *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'* ²³ *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
- D. Let's examine the statements where the Bible itself affirms that there is one true God who is the creator of the earth and the author of the holy word written by inspired men.
1. The Godhead created everything.
 - a. **Genesis 1:1** – *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*
 - b. **John 1:1-3** – ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
 - c. **Romans 1:20** – *"For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead..."*
 2. God expects His people to be obedient to His commandments.
 - a. **Deuteronomy 1:1-2** -- *"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I*

command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."

- b. **Deuteronomy 1:4-9** -- *"⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*
 - c. **I John 2:3-5** – *"³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."*
3. The first commandments given through the Law of Moses emphasized His authority.
Exodus 20:1-6 – *"²⁰And God spoke all these words, saying: ²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³"You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."*
 4. In fact, the commandments of Jehovah God were to become a way of life for the nation of Israel.
Deuteronomy 6:17-18 – *"¹⁷You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. ¹⁸And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers,"*
 5. The following are other scriptures that state that God's word is true:
 - a. **2 Samuel 22:31; 23:2** – *"As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven."*
 - b. **Psalms 19:7-11** – *"⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the*

- honeycomb. ¹¹ moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward."*
- c. **Proverbs 30:5-6** – *"⁵ Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. ⁶ Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar."*
 - d. **Mark 13:31** – *"³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*
 - e. **2 Timothy 2:15** – *"¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
 - f. **1 Peter 1:23-25** – *"²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because 'All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever.'" Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."*

III. Is The Bible Accurate?

- A. Since the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God, one ought to be able to expect it to be absolutely accurate.
 - 1. For example, biblical evidence indicates that Moses authored the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament).
 - a. The historian writer Josephus, and a number of pagan writers (Hecataeus, Manetha, Lysimachus, Eupolemus, Tacitus, Juvenal, and Longinus) all credited Moses with the laws that distinguished the Jews from other nations.
 - b. Historical documents and archaeological evidence have proven that the history included in the Bible is accurate.
 - 2. Human works, no matter how scholarly, are always flawed by unintentional mistakes which betray human fallibility.
 - a. Critics of the Bible once scoffed at the mention of the Hittites in **Genesis 23:10; 26:34**. However, archaeological discoveries in Turkey have exploded that claim and confirmed the authenticity of the background material of the Old Testament.
 - b. In the late 1800's, Sir William Ramsey, a scholar who was skeptical of the authenticity of the book of Acts, set out upon an archaeological expedition in Asia Minor with the intention of disproving the historicity and accuracy of Luke's writing. After years of research, literally digging up the evidence, Ramsey was forced to conclude that Acts was historically accurate.
- B. The Bible includes statements that contain scientific information that could not have been known by the Old Testament writers without the inspiration provided by God.

1. **Isaiah 40:22** – *"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in."*
 - a. Most people, even in the 15th century still believed that the earth was flat which is why it took Columbus so long to get financial backing for his attempt to sail west from Europe to the West Indies.
 - b. Of course, they did not know that a huge land mass (the north and south American continents) existed, which resulted in Columbus discovering these continents.
 - c. How then did the Isaiah know the earth was a circle?
2. How did the Jews know that the eighth day was the perfect day for circumcising their male children (according to the Law of Moses)?
 - a. God specifically instructed the Jews to perform this ritual on the eighth day of a newborn male.
 - b. In 1935, Professor H. Dam discovered that the presence of vitamin K in human beings was responsible for blood clotting which prevents hemorrhaging.
 - 1.) Two pediatricians, Holt and McIntosh wrote a book (*Holt Pediatrics*) in which they observed that a newborn infant has a "peculiar susceptibility to bleeding between the second and the fifth day of life."
 - 2.) This is true because vitamin K is not produced in sufficient quantities until days five through seven, therefore, the best time for surgery on these infants is after day seven.
 - 3.) Did the Jews know these facts? No. They simply trusted in God and followed His commandment exactly.
3. God gave the Israelites a list of "unclean" foods which they were to avoid eating altogether.
 - a. Many of these restrictions are still in effect for Jews today (such as avoiding pork products, shell fish, etc.)
 - b. The animals that were proclaimed "clean":
 - 1.) cows, deer, goats, sheep = animals with cloven/split hooves and that chew a cud,
 - 2.) certain birds (not birds of prey) and fish with scales and fins, etc., which are herbivores, not carrion-eaters. That is, they eat plants or the fruit of plants, therefore, there is little likelihood that these animals contain diseases.
 - 3.) The "unclean" animals, such as:
 - a.) Animals with paws like rabbits, dogs, bears, cats, and reptiles etc.
 - b.) Animals that do not chew a cud, such as pigs, camel, horses, etc.
 - c.) Shell fish, octopus, sharks, etc. (no scales)
 - d.) Birds of prey such as, eagles, hawks, buzzards, etc.

- e.) Most of these animals are carnivores who hunt other animals as food and eat the rotting carrion of dead animals.
 - f.) Because of what they eat, they are very likely to carry parasites and diseases that are harmful to mankind.
 - g.) As mankind developed, especially by New Testament times, they learned that properly cooking the flesh of these animals could eliminate the danger of such parasites or diseases.
- 4.) Remember, in **Acts 10** that Peter received a vision from God telling him to eat all kinds of unclean animals. This was to teach Peter that the Gentiles were equally acceptable in the Lord's church as were converted Jews.
- a.) However, when Peter refused to agree to eat the unclean creatures, the voice said to him: "*What God has cleansed you must not call common.*"
 - b.) Therefore, we know that the requirement to eat only clean animals was not carried over from the Law of Moses to the Law of Christ.
 - c.) The Jews did not understand the scientific reasons God had for limiting the animals that they should eat, but God did. He made man and He made the animals and He knew how unclean food would affect the health of His people when He made this restriction.
4. No serious student of religion of any kind can fail to be awed by this vast body of consistent evidence that can only argue for an inspired document.

IV. The very existence of the types and shadows in the Bible are evidence that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

- A. It is impossible to record centuries of historical and spiritual events which, when all compiled together, contain a thread that ties them all together to reinforce the message of salvation, unless God (who sees all of time from beginning to end) is the author.
- B. What are "types" and "shadows" and "antitypes"?
- 1. The writer of Hebrews said the Law of Moses contained a "shadow" of the good things to come.
 - a. **Hebrews 10:1** – "*For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things..*"
 - b. The very existence of a "shadow" (or type) indicates that something better or more perfect exists – the "antitype" (the better or more perfect thing), even if it cannot be understood at the time the shadow is cast.
 - 2. Paul emphasized that the shadow (or type) is not the same as the antitype (the thing that casts the shadow).
 - a. A shadow cannot exist without an object to cast the shadow.

- b. While you can often recognize an object by its shadow, a shadow is usually distorted and lacks the details of the object (antitype) which the shadow represents.
 - c. A shadow, then, is an imperfect representation of the real thing.
- C. Old Testament types are shadows in the sense that they are not the real thing, but are imperfect representations of the real thing.
- 1. Types or shadows in the Old Testament may be:
 - a. a person – like Adam, Cain, Abel Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Jonah, the High Priest, etc.
 - b. an event – like the flood, the plagues of Egypt, the Passover, crossing the Jordan, etc.
 - c. numbers – 1, 3, 7, 12, 40 etc.
 - d. a thing -- the Ark, the Tabernacle, the Lamp Stand, The Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy Seat, etc.
 - e. a ceremony – Passover, Sacrifices, Ceremonial Cleansing, Feasts, the Year of Jubilee, the Day of Atonement, etc.
 - 2. In studying the “types”, two comparative words are used – “as” and “so”.
 - a. The word “as” is used in reference to the “type” or “shadow”, which is a reference to something in history.
 - b. The word “so” is used in reference to the “antitype” or the better, more perfect object, which is prophetic, pointing to something to come.
 - c. For example:
 - 1.) **Matt. 12:40** – “**As** *Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, **so** will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*”
 - 2.) **John 3:14** – “**As** *Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even **so** must the Son of Man be lifted up.*”
 - 3. How could events separated by centuries be connected in a prophetic sense, unless God planned it?
 - a. Not even Jonah realized that the three days and nights he spent inside a great fish was pointing to a time when the Messiah would spend three days and three nights in the “heart of the earth”.
 - b. How could Moses know that the power of the brass serpent to heal Israel of a deadly disease would be prophetic of the power of Jesus Christ to save souls from destruction for those who obey the gospel (hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized for the remission of sins and living faithfully until death).

V. The Old Testament shadows help us understand the covenant of the New Testament more fully.

- A. We have authority from Jesus to believe these “shadows” from the Old Testament regarding Himself.

1. **John 5:46-47** – *“⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”*
 2. **Luke 24:25-27** – *“²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”*
- B. Paul and the Hebrew writer also taught the gospel of Jesus Christ beginning with Moses and the prophets.
1. **Acts 28:23** – *“...many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.”*
 2. Paul compares the Passover to Jesus Christ: **I Corinthians 5:7b** – *“For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”*
 3. **Hebrews 8:1-6** – *“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. ⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” ⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”*
 4. **Hebrews 9:22-24** – *“²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. ²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”*

VI. CONCLUSION – The Old Testament Types/Shadows Serve As “Coming Attractions” For What Will Be Made Fully Known In The New Testament.

- A. Have you ever been to a movie and seen the “Coming Attractions” before the movie begins?
1. These are exciting scenes that are shown to get us interested in the movie so that we want to see it when it comes to the theater in the future.

2. God understood that concept from the beginning.
 - a. He showed us remarkable events that were intended as hints of a "coming attraction" – the arrival of the Messiah, the establishment of the church, the reward of eternal life in heaven.
 - b. Those events were not merely history that only involved the nation of Israel, they were events that would pointed to the "mystery of the kingdom of God"
 - 1.) **Ephesians 1:7-10** – *"⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him."*
 - 2.) **Romans 16:25-26** – *"²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—"*
 - 3.) **I Corinthians 2:7-8** – *"⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*
- B. While we now have that mystery fully revealed, the types and shadows of the Old Testament help us to understand it more completely, revealing God's plan for the church from before the foundations of the earth were laid.