

SHADOWS OF SCRIPTURE

Read: I Chron. 29:10-15

I. The Shadow of Human Frailty

1. The Shadow of Egypt, Isa. 30:2, "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!"

2. Ps. 144:4, Man is like to vanity:

His days are as a shadow that passeth away."

3. I Chron. 29:15, "For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding."

(See Add'l Notes)

4. Byron, at the age of 36, wrote:

"My days are in the yellow leaf;

The flowers and fruits of love are gone;

The worm, the canker, and the grief,
are mine alone."

II. The Shadow of Physical Death.

1. "O weariness of men who turn from God, (action,
To the grandeur of your mind and the glory of your
To arts and inventions and daring enterprises,
To schemes of human greatness thoroughly discredited,
Binding the earth and water to your service,
Exploiting the seas and developing the mountains;
Though you forget the way to the Temple,
There is One who remembers the way to your door:
Life you may evade, but Death you shall not.
You shall not deny the Stranger." - T.S. Elliot.

2. Ps. 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the SHADOW of death, I will fear no evil;
for Thou art with me."

3. Job 12:22, "He discovereth the deep things out of darkness, and bringeth to light the SHADOW of death."

4. Amos 5:8, "Seek Him that turneth the SHADOW of death into the morning."

5. Christian and Hopeful, the two pilgrims, crossing the River to the gate of the Heavenly City, were told,
"You shall find it deeper or shallower as you believe in the King of the place."

The shadow of Death Angel over Egypt:

In Egypt the hour of midnight approached.

Suddenly there arose a great cry --

a long wail of woe,

a tidal wave of lamentation that swept over
the whole land.

In his palace Pharoah awoke with a sense of
dread and called for his prince,
only to learn that the prince of the realm,

his first born, was dead.

Parents stirred uneasily,

and anxiously called for their stalwart sons,
only to find them cold in death.

Mothers awoke in terror to find that the babes
they clasped to their breasts were nothing
but corpses.

Event the cattle in the fields moaned over their dead;
for that night the angel of the Lord smote
the first-born of Egypt,

"from the first-born of Pharoah that sat on his throne
unto the first-born of the captive that was in
the dungeon; and all the first-born of cattle."

Death reigned!

Death!! Death! Death!

Death in the palace!

Death in the cottage!

Death in the temple!

Death in the dungeon!

Death on the river!

Death on the highway!

Death in the fields!

Death! Death! Death!

And everywhere a moan of anguish went up
to Egypt's skies.

1. (See "Add'l Notes")

2. King George VI's Xmas msg, 1939.

III. The Shadow of Divine Protection

1. Under the SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

A. Ps. 17:8, "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the SHADOW of thy wings."

B. Ps. 36:7, "How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God; therefore the children of men put their trust under the SHADOW of thy wings."

2. There are many shadows that fall across the earth -- the shadows of floating clouds,

of trees swaying in the wind,

of smoke ascending from chimneys,

of birds on the wing,

and the shadows of great rocks on mountainsides.

But the deepest and longest and kindest shadow which falls over the earth is

the SHADOW OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

3. A Shadow of safety, Isa. 49:2,

"He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the SHADOW of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft."

4. The SHADOW OF DIVINE GUIDANCE.

Isa. 51:16, "I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the SHADOW of my hand."

IV. THE SHADOW OF HEAVENLY THINGS, Heb. 8:5 (A. Pope quote)

1. The O.T. priests, gifts, offerings, & sacrifices were shadows of heavenly things realized in Christ

2. Present blessings are shadows of future blessings,

3. The Law was a shadow of good things to come, Heb. 10:1

A. Yet it could "never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the ^{come} thereunto perfect." (For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sin.)

B. "But this man (Jesus Christ), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified, 12, 14)

C. Experience of Dr. Joseph Cook, of Boston, at a great parliament of religions, held at Chicago many years ago. Practically every known religion was represented, and many learned discourses were delivered.

(OVER)

During the session, Dr. Cook rose and said:
"Gentlemen, I beg to introduce to you a woman with a
great sorrow.
Bloodstains are on her hands and nothing she has tried
that will remove them.
The blood is that of murder,
and nothing will take away the stain.
She has been driven to desperation in her distress.
Is there anything in your religion
that will remove her sin and give her peace?"

A hush fell upon the gathering as the speaker turned
from one to another for an answer.

Not one of the company replied.
Raising his eyes heavenwards, Dr. Cook then cried out
"I will ask another.
John, can YOU tell this woman how to get rid of her sin?"
The great preacher waited,
as if listening for a reply.
Suddenly he cried, "Listen. John speaks:
'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son,
cleanseth us from all sin'" (I John 1:7)

Not a soul broke the silence:
the representatives of eastern religions and western
cults sat dumb.

In the face of human need, they were without message.
The gospel of Jesus Christ alone could meet the need.
The sin of the race demanded the blood of Calvary.

✓ 4. Isa. 32:1-2, "Behold, a King shall reign in righteousness, and a MAN shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the SHADOW of a Great Rock in a weary land.
And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken."

5. Song of Solomon 2:17, "Till the day break,
Benedictus and the SHADOWS flee away,"
may the God of Peace, who brought again from
the dead our Lord Jesus,
give you His Peace that passes understanding,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

H.M.S.C. repeated, Aug. 26, 1956 Gateway B.C. St. Pete Jan. '81
April 1963—cont. Ch. Augsburg St. Pete Beach 12/30/84

PS 91, a triumphant song of praise

This psalm reminds us in many ways of ps. 90.

Both begin with the blessedness of those who find a dwelling place in God.

But here the tone is more confident.

The faith rises on easy wings and sings spontaneously.

Ps. 90 suggests a man of many years who has experienced disappointments and frustrations.

Ps. 91 suggests a young man with buoyancy and expectancy.

His praise is of one whose hope is rooted in God.

He knows that life has many perils:

the fowler's snare,

the pit of destruction,

the terror by night,

the arrow that flieth by day.

Yet his mind is not obsessed by these things but by the security of those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High.

The emphasis falls not on those who pay occasional visits, but on those who dwell--who abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Additional notes:

I. In contrast with the Lord of hosts,
how frail is even the strongest of men!
His days are like a passing shadow.
He may gain knowledge that gives him
some pre-eminence;
he may be granted fullness of days,
and the respect of his contemporaries;
he may be loaded with earthly dignities, but
"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,
And all that ~~beauty~~,
all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.
How trivial human knowledge or wisdom
or skill compared with the omniscience of God
--How frail life itself is compared
with eternity!

IV.

✓ "ONLY SHADOWS"

There are shadows of sorrow that darken life's way,
But behind the dark shadows shines love's kindly ray.
There are shadows of fear bringing thoughts that dis-
If we walk in His love they will all pass away.

There are shadows of death that are black with despair
They are only shadows;
For Christ Jesus, The Light of the world, will be ~~th~~
there.

They are only shadows.
Do not doubt, do not fear,
When the shadows appear;
Just remember that dark lonely shadows
Cannot hide God's dear face,
If we trust in His grace,
They are only shadows.

(Words by A. H. Ackley;
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