

The Shadow of Things That Were to Come

Among many other definitions, Webster describes the word shadow as “A mirrored image; reflection. As a reflection of the true Lamb that would take the sins of the world, Isaac well reflected the Son of God in his obedience to his father, when he allowed Abraham to bind him on the altar for his sacrifice. One must know that Isaac was not a young lad during that time; he was in his twenties’. Perhaps Isaac must have known of the promise God gave his father at that time; but we don’t really know for sure. But for sure a battle was going in his mind with unanswered questions. He did not know that he was reflecting a mirrored image of the Son of God, the true Lamb that was to come and shed His blood to save the world.

Abraham, the father, did not question the Lord at His command to sacrifice his son. By faith he knew that all was going to be alright, for He knew the God Who had called him; in fact he was considered the friend of God. Nonetheless the task did not seem any easier for him as a father. Even the numbers of days that took Abraham to see the place God had chosen for him to sacrifice his son, was the same number that YAHSHUA stayed buried. On the third day when he saw the place, it was not only the place where he had to sacrifice his son, but it was also the place where God the Father was going to have His Son crucified many years later, and bring Him to life on the third day! All these were shadows of the reality that were to come in God’s own time. There He demonstrated His love for sinful man through the life of Isaac and Abraham.

When the burnt offering was laid on Isaac’s shoulders, it shadowed YAHSHUA carrying our grief, sorrow, pain, and our sins upon Himself. When Isaac became aware of the need of the lamb for the sacrifice, he shadowed the time when YAHSHUA agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane praying “My Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will (Matt. 26: 39). When Isaac asked the question, “See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice”? He had distanced himself from the task of being the lamb. Abraham’s answer satisfied him and together they walked to the place where God had chosen for the sacrifice. Invisible to the human eyes, many years later God the Father walked His Son to the cross to be sacrificed at the same mount ranges. The prophetic words of Abraham, “God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering” echoed to the world for thousands of years; and continue echoing bringing salvation for those who will listen and accept His gift. Christ is also the end of the law given to the Israelites, who were not able to fulfill it, for their spiritual condition was sinful. It was impossible for a mere man not to break it. But YAHSHUA was the substance, as Paul well expressed it: “Therefore don’t let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the MESSIAH (Col. 2:16-17). Thank you YAHSHUA. He made it possible for us to be forgiven through His blood, the perfect and complete sacrifice. No longer there is a need for an animal to be sacrificed for our sins! As the letter to the Hebrews says, You did not want sacrifice and offering, but you prepared a body for Me; You did not delight in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings. Then I said, “See, I have come it is written about Me in the volume of the scroll- to do Your will, O God!”(Heb. 10: 5-7). Without the shedding blood there is no remission of sins. YAHSHUA’S blood is the only blood with power and holiness to cleanse us from our sin. The Law could never have done without YAHSHUA

fulfilling it. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross (Col. 2: 14). Through the fulfillment of the Law, YAHSHUA opened a door for us to enter into His presence; raised with Him we must seek the things above where He is and everything having to do with Him. Paul said to Timothy keep YAHSHUA in mind all the time. Always looking up to Him, the author and consummator of our faith; He also became our High priest; After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, and He was declared by God a High priest in the order of Melchizedek (Heb.5:10). Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens – YAHSHUA the Son of God- let us hold fast to the confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time (Heb. 4:15-16).

Forsaken by men and momentarily by His Father, YAHSHUA suffered all pain and sorrow that we suffer. The substance of the shadow that was to come took all upon Himself and gave us His life, peace, hope, love, and faith. He also gave us His Word to guide us into righteousness through the work of His HOLY SPIRIT. Therefore there is a warning we must pay attention to: Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My words for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with this generation and said, “They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways. So I swore in My anger, “They will not enter My rest (Heb.3:7-11). And see that you do not reject the One Who speaks; for if they did not escape when they rejected Him who warned them on earth, even less will we if we turn away from Him who warns us from heaven (Heb:12:25-26).

With YAHSHUA’S death He gave us the life of faith and boldness to enter the sanctuary (His presence) through His blood; since we have a great High priest, let us draw near Him with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water (Heb:10:19-22). With His death He gave us the right to be children of God (John 1:12); and raised us up and seated us with Him in the heaven, in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6). Much more waits us in glory, when we are called home. Paul said, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us (Rom. 8:18).

Let us rejoice in His promises while we are pilgrims in this earth, for the One Who promised is faithful and He will do it!