

FORESHADOWINGS 1 - Fall & Promise

St Augustine: "The NEW is in the OLD CONCEALED; the OLD is in the NEW REVEALED."

- * In the light of JESUS, the Old Testament MAKES SENSE.
- * New Testament is also HIDDEN all the way through Old Testament → CLUES, SIGNPOSTS, 'FORESHADOWING' dotted throughout.

→ *What in the Old Testament story is mysterious, confusing, baffling without the New Testament? How should we use the Old Testament? What are your favourite Old Testament stories / characters and why? How do they foreshadow Jesus?*

FORESHADOWING = Little CLUES the author uses to HINT at what is to come LATER in the story ... Helps the reader ANTICIPATE coming events.

→ *Any significant examples of foreshadowing you can think of in literature or film?*

Lauren F. Winner: "God is a novelist. He uses all sorts of literary devices: alliteration, assonance, rhyme, synecdoche, onomatopoeia. But of all of these, His favourite is foreshadowing ... laying traps, leaving clues, clues I could have seen had I been perceptive enough."

God uses many different devices in the OT to foreshadow Jesus

- PEOPLE → Isaac, Joseph, Jonah
 - EVENTS → Flood, Passover, crossing the Red Sea
 - OBJECTS → Water out of rock, Moses' staff becomes a snake, tabernacle and furniture, priestly clothing
 - RITUALS → Circumcision, burnt offering, releasing the scapegoat
 - Even NUMBERS and COLOURS if you dig deep enough
- *How many others can you list in each category? People / events / objects / rituals? What about colours and numbers?*

OBJECT OF EXERCISE

1. Look at the OVERVIEW.
2. PREPARE the WAY for the coming of the KING.
3. Show Jesus is the HERO of every story + ANSWER to every problem.

SEVEN 'DISPENSATIONS'

1. INNOCENCE = From Creation to Fall
2. CONSCIENCE = From Fall to Flood
3. HUMAN GOVERNMENT = From Flood to dispersion at Babel
4. PROMISE = From Abraham to Moses
5. LAW = From Moses to the crucifixion of Jesus
6. GRACE = From Cross to Second Coming
7. MILLENNIAL KINGDOM = 1000 Year reign of Christ on earth culminating in God's final judgment in Revelation 20.

→ *Do you find this breakdown helpful? Why? How does the way God interacts with mankind change with each transition? What are the main differences between the dispensation of Law and Grace?*

NOTES FOR US

- * Now we are under GRACE.
 - * We live in the LIGHT of the Cross, not the ANTICIPATION.
 - * When we read and quote OT verses, we must remember that we are under a NEW COVENANT of GRACE not LAW.
- *Why is this so important? What errors might we fall into otherwise? What advantages do we have living under grace that the Old Testament characters didn't have?*

A. THE PROBLEM = SIN which SEPARATION man from God

- * God is HOLY, PURE, PERFECT and cannot TOLERATE sin.
- * God is RIGHTEOUS & JUST and must JUDGE sin.
- * God is LOVE, full of GRACE and will FORGIVE sin.

B. THE CONSEQUENCE = Threefold CURSE (Genesis 3:14-19)

→ *How have the curses of man and woman played out over the course of history? What do we learn about sexual inequality, its origins, source and solution (See Gal 3:13,28)*

C. THE FORESHADOWING = Genesis 3:14-15, Colossians 2:13-15

→ *What can we glean prophetically from Genesis 3:15? Who is the woman? The seed? Whose head? Whose heel? What events is this verse talking about?*

D. THE SOLUTION = Genesis 3:21

1. INNOCENT BLOOD must be SHED to pay the price for SIN
 - * Notice that in v7, Adam & Eve tried to cover their nakedness and shame with FIG LEAVES, but in v21, God made them GARMENTS OF SKIN (Hebrews 9:22, 2 Chronicles 29:24).
2. God HIMSELF will DO it
 - * He STEPPED in to do what was necessary → He made the SACRIFICE, He provided the SOLUTION.
3. Righteousness is IMPUTED, not EARNED
 - * It's a GIFT, not a REWARD ... It's ENTIRELY because of HIM and NOT AT ALL because of US (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:1-2, Isaiah 61:10, 64:6)
 - * Their attempts to cover THEMSELVES were WHOLLY INADEQUATE.
 - * He covered them first with a PARTIAL, TEMPORARY covering, FORESHADOWING what CHRIST would later do FULLY and PERMANENTLY (Romans 5:17-19).

→ *What does it mean to be righteous? Can you become more righteous? What does it mean to say that Jesus has made us righteous (2 Cor 5:21)?*

→ *Why are works-righteousness and self-righteous such compelling traps? Do you ever find yourself being drawn into self-righteousness?*

RESPONSE

1. Receive gift by faith → *You can't earn it, your fig leaves are no good, have you ever truly received the gift of salvation by faith?*
2. Stop trying to fix it yourself → *He is the answer, He is the Mediator. He steps in and provides answers and solutions, but you have to quite doing it your way. Are you right now? Anything you can't fix? Any agendas you need to lay down?*