

Doctrine of the Shadow

1. In the hot eastern climate with the tropical sun burning down upon a traveler, a place of refuge from the scorching heat is welcomed.
2. A physical place of comfort speaks of spiritual truths.
 - *Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,*
 - *Psalms 36:7 How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*
 - *Isaiah 32:2 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.*
3. Time itself is but a shadow of things to come.
 - *1 Chronicles 29:15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.*
 - *Job 8:9 (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow :)*
4. Death is called a shadow and not something to be feared. The shadow of a dog cannot bite and the shadow of a candle cannot burn. So the shadow of death need hold no fear for the Christian.
 - *Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
5. Despite the ravaging effects of the Fall upon creation, it is no small mercy of God to provide a shadow of refuge for His creation.
 - *Mark 4:32 [Jesus spoke of a small seed when planted.] But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.*
6. To establish apostolic authority the shadow of Peter produced healing power.
 - *Acts 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.*

7. The Mosaic Law with its rules and regulations was only a shadow of great gospel spiritual truths.
 - *Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*
 - *Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*
8. While a physical shadow can offer rest and comfort a mental or spiritual shadow can obscure reality or a great truth. Only in God is there no shadow of this nature.
 - *James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*