

Hebrews 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Analysis

Earthly priests serve 'a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.' The Greek 'hypodeigmati kai skia' emphasizes the earthly sanctuary's derivative, inferior nature. It's not the reality but a teaching model. Moses was warned to make everything 'according to the pattern' shown on the mountain (Exodus 25:40). Reformed typology sees the tabernacle/temple as divinely designed pointers to Christ's perfect priestly ministry in heaven's true sanctuary.

Historical Context

Exodus 25-40 meticulously describes the tabernacle's construction according to God's revealed pattern. This pattern originated in the heavenly reality, making the earthly structure a God-ordained type of superior spiritual truths.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the earthly tabernacle as a 'shadow' of heavenly realities change your reading of Exodus?
2. What do the shadows teach us about the substance (Christ) they foreshadow?

Interlinear Text

οἵτινες ὑποδείγματι καὶ σκιᾷ λατρεύουσιν τῶν
Who unto the example and shadow serve G3588
G3748 G5262 G2532 G4639 G3000

ἐπουρανίων καθὼς κεχρημάτισται Μωσῆς μέλλων
of heavenly things as was admonished of God Moses when he was about
G2032 G2531 G5537 G3475 G3195

ἐπιτελεῖν τὴν σκηνήν Ὁρα γάρ φησίν ποιήσῃς
to make the tabernacle See for saith he that thou make
G2005 G3588 G4633 G3708 G1063 G5346 G4160

πάντα κατὰ τὸν τύπον τὸν δειχθέντα σοι ἐν
all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in
G3956 G2596 G3588 G5179 G3588 G1166 G4671 G1722

τῷ ὅρει·
the mount
G3588 G3735

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Exodus 25:40 (Parallel theme): And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

Hebrews 10:1 (Parallel theme): 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.

Exodus 26:30 (Temple): And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.

Exodus 27:8 (Parallel theme): Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.

1 Chronicles 28:19 (Parallel theme): All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

1 Chronicles 28:12 (References God): And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

Hebrews 9:9 (Parallel theme): Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Numbers 8:4 (References Moses): And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick.

Hebrews 11:7 (References God): By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.