LESSON - 1

SYMBOLIC PICTURES- A STUDY

Reading:1 Cor.10 : 1-11, Heb. 9:1-10

Memory verses: Heb. 1:1,2

Theme:

To study the Old Testament writing kepping in mind the fact that the rituals,incidents personalites,structures etc. are symbols or shadows of truth revealed in the New Testament.

Introducation:

Which are the two main divisions of the Bible? How many books are there in each division? What is the central topic of the Bible?

The central topic of the bible is the redemption of mankind which is in the bondage of sin. This topic is presented in the Old Testament through symbolic pictrues. The true meanings of these pictures are revealed in the New Testaments.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT

Jesus Christ while on His earthly ministry taught divine truth to people through parables and examples.In the same way,God used to reveal His plan for the man in parts and in various ways.In Old Testament times,He unfolded His -plan of salvation symbolically in the form of rituals like sacrifices,festivals,etc.,through certain incidents,through some structural forms and through the lives of certain individuals.Praise God for the full revelation that we have through Jesus Christ. Therefore,the study of the Old Testment and should not be neglected.

The symbolic pictures of the Bible can be divided into four groups.They are rituals of worship,individuals, incidents and structural forms.

1.Rituals of worship Rituals like sacrifies,festivals,priestly duties,etc. stand as symbols of great truth of the New Testament. For example, the killing of the Passover lamb is a shadow of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary for the salvation of mankind."Even

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 5: 7-8).We shall learn this topic in detail in later lessons.

2.Individuals.Certain personalities in the Old Testament are types of Jesus Christ.Experiences of certain other individuals reveal spiritual truth associated with the lives of belivers.We shall consider below a few examples:

Adam: Adam stands as the representative of mankind under the bondage of sin. On the other hand,Christ stands as the head of the redeemed man.(Eph. 5:23). By one man,Adam,sin entered into the world,and death by sin.(Rom.5:12). Even so,by the obedience(death) of the last Adam,Jesus Christ,the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.(Rom.5: 18-19). "For as in Adam all die,even so in Christ shall all be made a live(1Cor.15:22).The first man (Adam) is of the earth,earthy: the second man (Christ) is the Lord from heaven. And as we have borne the image of earthy,we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"(1Cor. 15 : 47-49).

Issac Issac was born as promised son.(Gen. 17:19; 21:1-3).Jesus Christ also was born into this world as the promised seed of Abraham.It is in Jesus Christ that the promise of God to bless all nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham has been fulfilled.(Gen. 22: 18; Gal 3: 16). Issac obeyed his father unto death.(Gen.22:1-14). Jesus Christ became obedient even unto death on the cross.(Phil.2:8). The bringing of a bride for Issac by Eliazer,the steward of Abraham points towards the preparation of the Church as the bride of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 24; Eph. 5:26-27).

Joseph: Joseph the most loved son of Jacob is a type for Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God.Joseph started out in search of his brothers,but he was hated and persecuted by them.Jesus came unto His own people,Isreal, but they hated and persecuted Him." He came unto His own,and His own received Him not "(John 1:11).Even as joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver,Jesus was betrayed by His own disciple,Judas,for 30 pieces of silver.Joseph,though innocent but put in prision,came out triumphant and became the ruler of Egypt.Jesus, though sinless,was crucified and buried. But on the third day He rose from the dead.God highly exalted Him and gave him a name above every name. Besides these people Melchizedek in his prisently role (Heb.8:2;7:3),Moses in his faithful service (Heb. 3: 2-6),David in his royalty (Isa.11: 1-3) and solomon in his wisdom (2 Chro. 9: 3-5;Matt. 6:29; 12:42) stand as shadows of Jesus Christ.

3. Incidents : Many incidents recorded in the Old Testament are,symbolic of the truths of the New Testament.For example,Cain's offering to God from the fruits of his labour represents efforts of people to obtain salvation by works.On the other hand,Abels sacrifice of a firstling of his flock represents salvation through faith.It proclaims the truth that salvation is based on the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Gen. 4: 2-5;Heb. 11:4). The journey of Israel through wilderness towards the promised land of Canaan after being delivered from the bondage of Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb is a great example of the sojourn of belivers towards heaven through the wilderness of this world.(1 Cor. 10: 1-12). You can try to find more examples of similar nature from the scriptures.

4. Stuctures : Structures which were built as per the instructions from God like the Noah's Ark,the Tabernacle and the Temple of Jerusalem reveal many spiritual truth.In the days of Noah,when the wicked world was judjed by the Flood,God provided a means of escape for those who entered into the Ark made according to His instructions.The Ark is a shadow of the means of slavation that God has provided through Jesus Christ.The Tabernacle and the Temple and the various articles kept inside them were symobilc of many truths concerning New Testament belivers.We shall study this topic in more detail later.

God wants to declare to man the truths about Jesus Christ and His work of redemption.Before the birth of Jesus Christ as a man,these truth were given to man as symbols of shadows. The substance of these shadows is seen in Jesus Christ and His work of salavation.The symbols are still available to us in this age for our instruction and edification.Hence it is required of us to study the Old Testament prayerfully in the light of the New Testament and submit ourselves totally to the will of God for us.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
2. What is the purpose of studing about the symbols or shadows?
3. Which are the main groups of symbols? Give an example for each.
4. Which is the main topic revealed by God through the symbols?
5. In what way is Issac a type of christ?
6. Explain how joseph stands as a type of christ.
7. Compare the first man,Adam and the last man,Christ.