



Shadow OF THE CROSS

JEREMIAH 13:14

I will smash them [the Israelites] one against the other, parents and children alike, declares the LORD. I will allow no pity or mercy or compassion to keep me from destroying them.

JOHN 5:39-40

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Luther on Scripture and Christ

- * “It is beyond question that all the Scriptures point to Christ.”**
- * “When viewed aright, all stories of Holy Scriptures refer to Christ.”**
- * I see nothing in Scripture except Christ crucified.”**

COLOSSIANS 2:16-17

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

***Hi. This is me
and my shadow.***



Did God actually engage in the “shadow activity” the OT ascribes to him, or did he merely allow his people to THINK he was doing it?

I. On the cross, God reveals his self-sacrificial loving character not only by *acting toward us*, but also by allowing others to *impact him*.

II. On the cross, God judges sin by withdrawing and allowing evil to run its course.

[God] did not spare his own Son, but *gave him up* for us all (Rom. 8:32)

[Jesus] was *delivered over* to death for our sins (Rom 4:25)

“My God my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46)

III. On the cross, the Creator assumes responsibility for all that he allowed to take place in his creation.

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JEREMIAH 21:7

...I will give Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the people in this city ...into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to their enemies who seek their lives. He will put them to the sword; he will show them no mercy or pity or compassion.

Exodus 12:12

“On that same night / will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals...”

Exodus 12:23

“When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood...and *he will not permit the destroyer* to enter your houses and strike you down.”

Just as God appears sinful without *engaging in sin* on the cross, so God *appears violent* without engaging in violence in OT portraits.

**In light of God's full revelation on the cross,
we know:**

**1. God is a God who reveals himself not only
by acting toward others, but also by humbly
allowing others to impact him.**

**In light of God's full revelation on the cross,
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**1. God is a God who reveals himself not only
by acting *toward others*, but also by humbly
allowing others *to impact him*.**

**--> All that is ugly in the way God appears
reflects his allowing others to impact him
as he bears their sin, while God's beauty is
reflected in the fact that he stoops to take
on his ugly appearance out of love for
others.**

2. God judges sin by withdrawing his protection against violent humans and angelic powers, yet he assumes responsibility for all sin by taking on the appearance of one who DOES what he in fact merely ALLOWS.

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without backgrounds for printing**

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