



Old Testament Shadows

of Divine Mercy

God's Mercy

- ◆ Mercy is God's wonderful disposition to pardon the guilty
- ◆ Mercy can only be applied where there is guilt
- ◆ Because mercy applies to the guilty, it cannot be earned
- ◆ Mercy implies that one has no hope in God's justice
- ◆ Mercy must be bestowed without trampling the law
- ◆ Receiving and continuing to have mercy is conditional upon the attitude and actions of the guilty – Psa. 103:17-18
- ◆ These rules of mercy are universally applied!

Israel: The Recipients of God's Mercy

- ◆ Israel was the product of God's love, grace, and mercy – Deut. 7:6-8; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Eph. 2:1-9
- ◆ Israel struggled to appreciate their freedom, redemption, and holiness from God.
 - ◆ Despite experiencing God's power, they turned from Him and attributed their freedom to an idol! – Ex. 20:2-3; 24:3-8; 32:1,4, 10-28
 - ◆ Num. 11:1-3 – They complained against God and many were consumed by fire...but the nation survived.
 - ◆ Num. 11:4ff. – They complained against God's manna and faced a very great plague...but the nation survived.
 - ◆ Num. 14 – They believed the faithless spies and complained against God for leading them out of Egypt to die by the sword of the Canaanites!

Israel: The Recipients of God's Mercy

- ◆ We may seem them as faithless rogues, but how much are they simply a mirror of our attitudes and lives?
 - ◆ We as God's redeemed have promised to keep Christ's covenant.
 - ◆ How often do we ascribe the hope, security, and protection **God has promised to give** to worldly idols of money, possessions, and power?
 - ◆ How much do we struggle to see our relationship with God to be more than hardships and missing out on what the world has and does?
 - ◆ How often do we fail to see our relationship with God as one of freedom, exaltation, privilege, confidence, and joy?
 - ◆ How often do we listen to the faithless fears and do not tell others of Christ?
- ◆ Are we so different? No, but we, too, have a merciful God!

Shadow and Substance

Shadow/Type – Bronze Serpent

- ◇ Israel complained and rejected God's manna, the "bread from heaven" and God sends snakes bring pain and death – Num. 21:4-7; Psa. 78:24-25
- ◇ God's cure: The form of fiery snake made of bronze and placed on a pole for all to look at and be healed – Num. 21:8-9
- ◇ The snakes were not taken away. Justice had to be served even as mercy was bestowed.
- ◇ God's cure appeared as that which caused the pain and death—a reddish snake made of bronze, **but without the poison.**
- ◇ Snakes were unclean, an abomination, personified sin, detestable – Lev. 11:41-42; Gen. 3
- ◇ Healing came to all with enough faith to obey God and look upon the snake.

Substance/Antitype – Jesus on the Cross

- ◇ The Jews rejected Jesus, the true "bread of life" sent from heaven the He might give His flesh for the world – Jn. 6:48-51
- ◇ God's cure: The Jews' would raise up the Christ in crucifixion on a cross for all to see and be healed – Jn. 3:13-16
- ◇ Death had to come...to God's Son! Justice had to be served even as mercy was bestowed!
- ◇ God's cure appeared as that which caused the pain and death—man, **but without sin** – Phil. 2:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22, 24
- ◇ Christ was seen as unclean, accursed and detestable – Deut. 21:22-23; Gal. 3:13
- ◇ Christ's death brought victory over sin and death to all who believe – Jn. 3:16-17