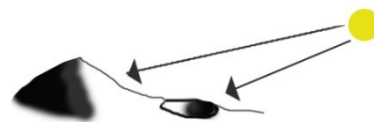


Lesson 3: shadows and mirror reflections

"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry appear: and it was so. And God called the dry, Earth;" Genesis1:6-8

When the light shines on an opaque object, the object blocks the light creating shadows. Shadows help us to see the shape of things like hills.

When the light shines on a hill, a shadow can be seen on the far side and the near side of a depression.



The word shadow צַל (tsail) in the Old Testament often has a positive meaning like shade, shelter and protection. In hot desert places, shadows are found in an oasis, or beneath a prayer-shawl. When a hand is closed, it creates a shadow beneath the fingers. Tsail rhymes with tail and both are attached behind.



"The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God" Deuteronomy 28:13.

Sometimes we need to be hidden in God's hand. Some things, only the Lord needs to know. His shadow can be trusted. Psalm 63:7: For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

Hosea 14:7: Those who live in His shadow will again raise grain, and they will blossom like the vine.

There are some shadows that don't provide the shelter they suggest.

Isaiah 30:2-3: "Who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore, the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation."

Jeremiah 48:45 "In the shadow of Heshbon the fugitives stand without strength;" (Amorite city means reckoning, taking revenge)

In Isaiah 51:16, Jesus' Father promised His covering so that He could accomplish certain tasks.

"I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people.'"



Isaiah 32:2: "Behold, a king will reign righteously and princes will rule justly. Each will be like a refuge from the wind and a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry country, like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land."

Jesus is that king and has made us joint heirs in His royal household. We are princes in His kingdom. We will be like shade in a hot place. We are mirrors reflecting the beauty of Christ. We enable the heavenly realm to be seen on earth.

Altars and objects of worship were often built on high places, such as hills (They were places of slaughter, so were placed at a distance from where they lived). Some looked to them and to the sun for help, but David looked to the Lord who made the sun and hills.

Activity: Paint the sky using a blue gradient, darker at the top. Paint a flat mix of blue and yellow for the hills. Add more blue to make a darker green then apply to the left side of the hill for the shadow.



You may need two coats for the hills. Wait until the first is dry before applying the second coat.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Where will my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1