

Hebrews 9

Hebrews 9, Cleansing Covenant

The Glory of the First Covenant (v. 1-5)

- First covenant had earthly sanctuary rules
- Two rooms: Holy Place and inaccessible Most Holy Place

Nature of the Earthly Tabernacle (v. 6-10)

- Priests performed continual rituals in first room
- High priest entered Most Holy Place yearly with blood sacrifice
- But could not provide true forgiveness or cleanse consciences

The Superior Work of Christ (v. 11-14)

- Christ serves in the true heavenly tabernacle
- Entered Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood
- Secured eternal redemption, purifying our consciences

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The Power of the New Covenant (v. 15-22)

- Old rituals were temporary
- Christ's sacrifice establishes the new covenant"
- Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (v.22)

The Heavenly Impact (v. 23-28)

- Jesus entered true heavenly sanctuary with His blood sacrifice
- His once-for-all sacrifice, not needing repetition
- He will appear a second time to save those eagerly waiting

Implications

- Transition from old to new, highlighting Christ's eternal redemption
- Enables believers to truly worship and serve God
- Christ's sacrifice cleanses consciences for service to the living God

Why Blood? Why Not Another Means To Deal With Sin?

Blood Represents Life

- Lev 17:11 "The life of the creature is in the blood"
- Offering of life required for true atonement

Depicts Consequences of Sin

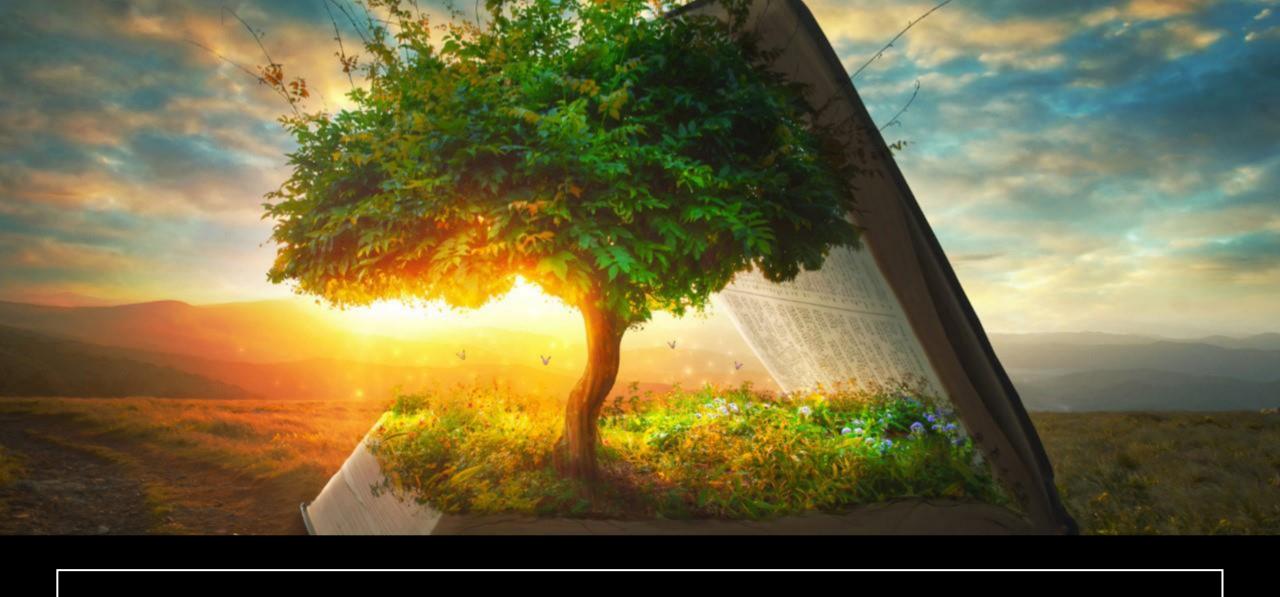
- Shedding of blood vividly illustrates death penalty for sin
- Graphic nature shows seriousness of sin's effects

Foreshadows Christ's Sacrifice

- OT blood sacrifices pointed to Christ's blood sacrifice
- Prepared humanity for perfection required

Represents Substitution

- Innocent life died in place of guilty person
- Modeled how Christ would be the substitute

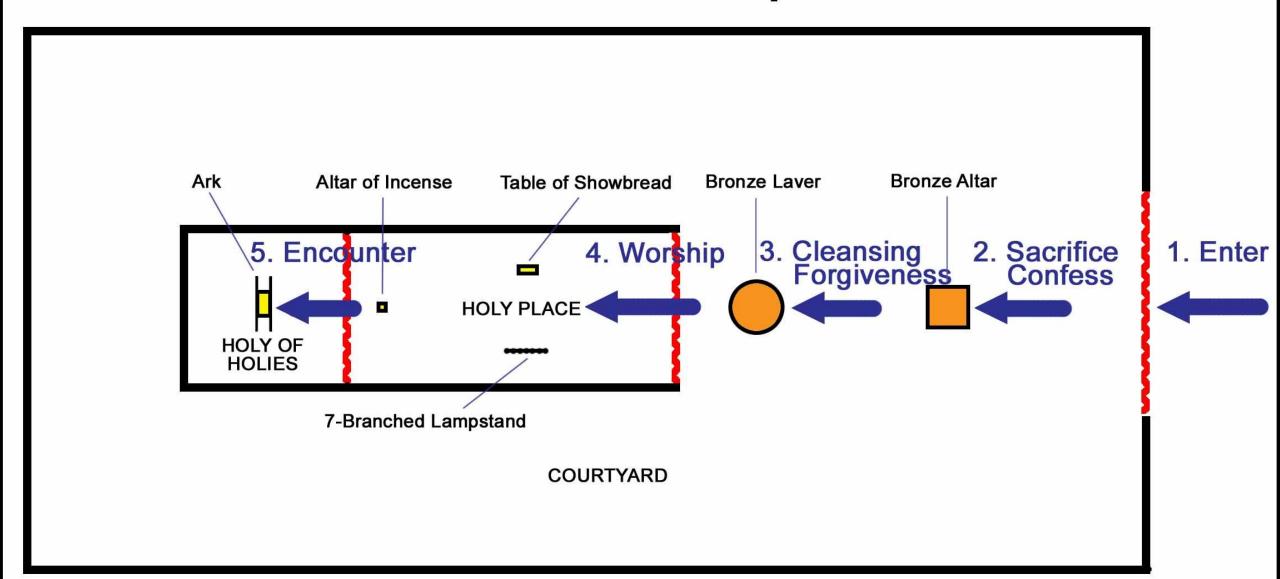


HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 REVIEW

9:1-10 MAIN POINT:

The earthly tabernacle and its rituals were symbolic and inadequate in providing true access to God and purifying the conscience.

Flow of Worship



- 1. Verse 9 says that these things (articles of worship) are symbolic. Can you identify the symbolism of the articles of worship in the tabernacle?
 - The <u>veil</u> separating the Holy Place and Most Holy Place symbolized the barrier between God and humanity.
 - The <u>ark of the covenant</u>, with the mercy seat, symbolized God's presence and the need for atonement.
 - The <u>lampstand</u> symbolized God's light and truth.
 - The table with showbread symbolized God's provision.
 - The incense altar symbolized the prayers of God's people.

9:11-18 MAIN POINT:

Christ's superior sacrifice and ministry as the High Priest of the new covenant provides eternal redemption and forgiveness of sins.

- 2. List as many of these contrasts between tabernacle system and offering of Christ as you can see that shows how much better Christ is with His offering:
 - Earthly sanctuary vs. heavenly sanctuary
 - Animal blood vs. Christ's own blood
 - Temporary cleansing vs. eternal redemption
 - Repeated sacrifices vs. one-time sacrifice
 - Limited access to God vs. direct access to God
 - Shadows and symbols vs. reality and substance

3. What does verse 15 teach?

 It teaches that through Christ's death, those who are called receive the promised eternal inheritance, as Christ's death redeems us from transgressions committed under the first covenant.

- 4. According to this passage, when did the new covenant take effect? Why is this knowledge important?
 - The new covenant took effect after Christ's death, which is emphasized in verses 16-18.
 - This knowledge is important because it shows that Christ's sacrifice was necessary for the new covenant to be established and for our sins to be forgiven.

9:19-28 MAIN POINT:

Christ's once-for-all sacrifice, offered in the heavenly sanctuary, provides eternal redemption and the certainty of salvation for those who eagerly await His return.

- 5. What is the reference to "the blood of the covenant" come from? What does this mean for us today?
 - The reference to "the blood of the covenant" comes from Exodus 24, where Moses sprinkled the blood of sacrificed animals on the people, symbolizing the ratification of the covenant between God and Israel.
 - For us today, it means that Christ's shed blood has established the new covenant, providing forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

- 6. What aspects of Christ's sacrifice are superior to the Mosaic sacrifice system?
 - Offered in the heavenly sanctuary, not an earthly one
 - Offered with His own blood, not animal blood
 - A once-for-all sacrifice, not repeated annually
 - Provides eternal redemption, not temporary cleansing
 - Purifies the conscience, not just the body
 - Enables direct access to God, not limited access

TRANSFORMATION

What do you learn about God from this chapter? How does this change the way you see God and how does this change your life? How does this encourage us to stand in the faith?

- God is holy yet loves us deeply. Sin separates us, but Christ's blood established a new covenant, forgiving our sins forever.
- This reveals God's love as a Father pursuing us through Christ's sacrifice, and salvation as a gift received by faith, not earned.
- Knowing sin's barrier is removed, we can confidently approach God, remain steadfast in faith, and eagerly await Christ's return to complete our redemption.