

Hebrews 9

This morning, we will start back at Hebrews 8 to see what the context of all that we will discuss today.

Hebrews 8:1-7 NKJV Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, (2) a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. (3)** For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer. **(4) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; (5) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."**

The author refers to the Tabernacle and all its furnishing that Moses was commanded to make. He states that these things were real, physical copies of those things which exist in heaven, the patterns of which the LORD showed Moses.

Paul wrote about something similar that might help us to understand the differences:

1 Corinthians 15:39-41 NKJV **(39)** All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds. **(40)** There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. **(41)** There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

So, even in our physical world there are different bodies made for different purposes,

1 Corinthians 15:42-49 NKJV **(42)** So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. **(43)** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **(44)** It is sown a natural body, **it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. **(45)** And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The **last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.** **(46)** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. **(47)** The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. **(48)** As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. **(49)** And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

This all speaks of the physical becoming spiritual, that is, in the resurrection, our bodies are certainly and splendidly changed from corruptible to incorruptible, mortal to immortal because, **"flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."** (1 Corinthians 15:50 NKJV)

When we are in heaven, we will see things as they truly are. Not some ghostly image of what was on earth. The things we will see are the true things that were copied here on earth. And whatever glory

was given to the earthly things, how much more glory will there be in the heavenly “originals”.

Our experience of these of glorious, heavenly things are all graciously provided to us because of the Son of God, the Man, Christ Jesus, of whom, verse 6-7 in Chapter 8 says:

(6) But now He has obtained a **more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also **Mediator of a better covenant**, which was established on **better promises**. (7) For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

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The New Covenant in Jeremiah 31 is as different as LIGHT and DARKNESS to the Old Mosaic Covenant.

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Hebrews 8:13 NKJV In that He says, "A NEW COVENANT," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old **is ready to vanish** away.

For the practicing, traditional Jew, the old covenant has not vanished; many are still trying to be perfected by it. In the same sense, for those in the “church” who tenaciously hold onto the legalistic requirements of the Law that they believe must be followed to the letter, this perverted view of the New Covenant has yet to vanish as well. It is all of Grace!

The author now turns to another “truer” picture of an existing reality on earth. Our High Priest, who is not on earth, also ministers in the heavenly and true Sanctuary.

But like the New Covenant which is best understood (and appreciated) using the backdrop of the Old Covenant, the Sanctuary of the Tabernacle on earth needs to be understood to appreciate what we have awaiting us in heaven!

Let’s first review chapter 9 in its entirety to see the flow of the author’s teachings:

Verses 1-5– the tabernacle of the Old Covenant is described

Verses 6-10 – the earthly High Priest and the symbolism of Most Holy Place

Verses 11-14 – the Blood of Christ vs the blood of bulls and goats

Verses 15 -17 – a death is required for the covenant’s inauguration

Verses 18-28 – God allowed animal blood to purify the earthly things but Jesus, the True High Priest, offers Himself once and for all

Let’s begin:

Hebrews 9:1-2 NKJV Then indeed, even the first *covenant* had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. (2) For a tabernacle was prepared: the first *part*, in which *was* the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

I read a quote from an ultra-orthodox Jew who asked,

“why does the Torah say, ‘Build a sanctuary for me and I will dwell in them (plural)?’ Wouldn’t it be more correct to say, ‘build a sanctuary and I will dwell in it (singular)’?”

The answer teaches us that God really desires a sanctuary in each one of us.

I was floored by this interpretation...and even more frustrated with their stubborn hearts! But Paul explained:

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 NKJV (14) But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. (15) But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. (16) Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

So, as we read about the earthly tabernacle, we must keep in mind that something truer exists, something greater that was not built by human hands.

The Tabernacle’s construction was commanded by God to Moses from Mt Sinai:

Exodus 25:8-9 NKJV And let **them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among [in] them.** (9) According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make *it*.

The words “sanctuary” and “tabernacle” are not synonyms. The former is a sacred place, a holy place. The tabernacle is a dwelling place and refers to the entire structure which had wooden walls and not cloth. The temple was considered a “permanent” tabernacle. Since not all of the furnishings are within the tabernacle proper, the entire structure, including the courtyard, the bronze altar and the bronze laver is often referred to as The Tabernacle.

What can we learn from the Holy Place and Holy of Holies?

We learn, first and foremost, **That the LORD wanted to dwell** with the people of Israel. It pictures His desire to fellowship with them and to protect them as well. For if God was with them, who could be against them?

But since God is perfectly holy and no one can just enter into His presence. In the OT, the way into His presence was restricted to Moses at first, and Aaron, the High Priest and then all the High Priests from the line of Aaron. But even Aaron and the subsequent High Priests could not enter the presence of the LORD without **“works”**, so to speak.

There had to be blood sacrifices; there had to be ceremonial washings; There were works to maintain the Holy Place with its lampstand, showbread and incense. All three had ordinances which required them to kept night and day, that is, the Lampstand had to always be lit (the Hebrew description of it is “eternal flame), the Showbread had to be replaced each Sabbath

and the incense was to be kept burning as well. It was in here that the priests prayed and worshipped God – but it was still out of His presence!

AND only the High Priest could come into the presence of God, in the Most Holy Place....and only once a year.

To prevent any one seeing into the Holy Place, a veil was constructed. And to prevent any priest other than the High Priest from going into the Holy of Holies, another veil was hung behind the altar of incense.

Clearly, for anyone who was not a priest, it was impossible to come into the Presence God. And throughout the years, the “better and more perfect way” was shrouded in statutes, ordinances and the Law.

But we who are Children of God understand that the earthly things are but shadows, pictures and types that are summed up not in a new thing but in one person: Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.

We have run out of time for today...

What is important for today is: the Old Covenant Scriptures are about Jesus who is the seed of a woman. He was the Promised One who would reconcile man and God.

But much of it is in symbols, shadows, types and pictures.

Yes, even the LAW, the sacrificial system, the Tabernacle, the Temple, the Priesthood all these things contain a picture of Messiah.

And so much more! For in heaven, there is a reality that mere words cannot adequately explain.

[Romans 11:33-36 NKJV](#) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (34) "FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS COUNSELOR?" (35) "OR WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM AND IT SHALL BE REPAID TO HIM?" (36) For of Him and through Him and to Him are **all things**, to whom be glory forever. Amen.