

# Better

*A Study of Hebrews • Lesson 7*

## Hebrews 9 - “A Better Tabernacle”

### Hebrews 9:1-5 - A Quick Tour of the Tabernacle

The book of Hebrews was written in 65AD and the temple was destroyed in 70AD, so the original hearers were within 5 years of this life changing event.

Why would he say they “would not speak of this in detail?” Because he assumes the original hearers already know this. There are 50+ chapters in the Old Testament that talk about the tabernacle. The point is really what these items point towards.

You could relate this to the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13

- The Lampstand - Hallowed be Your Name
- Table with 12 Loaves of the Bread of the Presence - Our Daily Bread
- Altar of Incense - prayers of the saints going up to the Lord

Ark of the Covenant - represented the presence of God. The High priest took incense with him when he entered the Holy of Holies once per year, to create a cloud that protected him from gazing on the Presence of the Lord, because no one could see God and live.

We now have access, already, but not yet.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant were 3 things:

- Aaron’s staff, which was to bud to signify he was God’s chosen one, but it had blossomed and bore fruit
- Golden urn full of manna
- The tablet with the 10 Commandments

Each of these things were shadows that pointed to the greater truth:

- Jesus is the True and Better High Priest
- Jesus is the Bread of Life from Heaven
- Jesus perfectly fulfills the Law

Over the Ark were the winged Cherubim to remind us that this is a throne. The mercy seat—where God’s presence dwelt—

Heaven met earth at the tabernacle.

When Jesus says “*Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand,*” He is saying, “*I am ushering you in.*”

Hebrews 9:6-7

Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement/give offering for the sins of the people and himself. The first blood offering was for himself and then for the sins of the people committed unintentionally. There were repeated sacrifices - shows the insufficiency of this priesthood.

References to “Blood”

- 12 in Hebrews Chapter 9
- 23 in entire book of Hebrews
- 21 in Revelation

Hebrews 9:8-9a

The Greek word, *Parable* means *symbolic*, meaning the present age. This is presenting a picture.

Hebrews 9:9b-10

The sacrifice can't perfect the conscience. The blood could only cleanse the external things, not the internal.

The conscience = The part of us able to discern right from wrong, making us feel guilt when we do wrong. This is uncomfortable, and not resolvable for the unbeliever, so those who don't know the Lord “sear” the conscience meaning they disable it and stop listening to it.

BUT

For the redeemed, the conscience points us to safety and to what is pleasing to God. Since Christ removed our sin, instead of guilt, we are warned to turn away from sin. We need a clear but not a disabled conscience. That is why the warnings are there in Hebrews - for our good - to point us toward good, by the power of the Spirit.

Gifts and sacrifices were only until the time of reformation, that is the time of the coming of Christ when the New Covenant was instituted. They were meant to be a parable - a story - to tell a greater truth. In a similar way, Jesus told parables pointing toward greater truths. Under the Old Covenant, external washings were all they had, but the Law of Christ says draw near - a way is being made open for you - an internal cleansing of the conscience.

Hebrews 9:11-14

**The better things that have come:**

- We can now draw near with confidence
- We can have our conscience cleansed
- The heavenly reality of the parable is that Jesus entered once for all by means of His own blood. No longer any need for more sacrifices.

Note: 4 x in this chapter: “*Once for all*”

SO: Don't engage in dead works to serve the living God. This does not mean we should not do good works. Titus 2:11-14

We were redeemed from dead works (we cannot earn favor with God) to living works (reflective of His finished work in us, done out of love and gratitude because He is in us).

Hebrews 9:5-17

A will is put into effect only when a person dies. Jesus had to die a public death because He needed witnesses. Jesus had to die publically to enact the inheritance upon His death, which was ratified upon His resurrection.

Hebrews 9:18-22

References Exodus 24:1-8 in which Moses read from the book of the Covenant and the people enthusiastically proclaimed their obedience to it. Then Moses sprinkled them and everything with blood. Why? Because they were not going to be able to obey. Note that the temple was made of fabric—it was stained over and over with blood from all the sacrifices—why did God design it this way?

Hebrews 9:23-28

Jesus appears to deliver us from sin in our current circumstances:

- Jesus **has appeared** to deliver from the penalty of sin - we are justified when we come to faith in Christ.
- Jesus **is appearing** on our behalf to deliver from the power of sin - we are being sanctified as we grow in Him all through life from that point forward.
- He **will appear** to deliver us from the presence of sin - we will be glorified in Heaven, freed from sin forever - salvation complete.

Thus all His enemies will be under His feet in order to save those who are *eagerly waiting*. Are you eagerly waiting??? Or are you comfortable??

The Old Covenant was a Parable - blood sprinkled on the outside couldn't cleanse the internal.

We don't like to consider something dying to give us life. But the Jews understood this connection very well. Consider the Lord's supper. Jesus says, "*Eat my flesh. Drink my blood.*" Drink the blood of the covenant - poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins - drink it in. WHY?

Because we take forgiveness IN - it is not spattered on the outside - we are being cleansed on the inside! This is a better parable - the efficacy of a **Once for All** Sacrifice - the power of His blood!

*Red Letters* - Crowder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Q6M5IpSMhQ>

*Power in the Blood* - Shane and Shane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLIKwCGIZpE>