

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF HEBREWS

THE OLD WAY (HEBREWS 9:1-10) THE TABERNACLE WAS GLORIOUS IN ITS DAY

Not only was the construction beautiful and precisely crafted, but the rituals foreshadowed the glory of the coming Christ and what He would do for His people

- The tabernacle also provided regulations and a place of worship, but it was material, imperfect, and temporary

THE TABERNACLE HAD TWO MAIN PARTS

The first room was called the Holy Place. It was 30ft long, 15ft wide, and 15ft high. It contained a lampstand, a table, and bread for the priest. The lampstand illuminates the first room, but the presence of God would illuminate the second

THE MOST HOLY PLACE, OR HOLY OF HOLIES

A 15ft tall veil separated the rooms, and on the Day of Atonement the High Priest would go into this room into God's presence to offer sacrifices for the community

- Nothing can contain God. The veil was a representation of the divide between mankind and God. Jesus removed this barrier through the cross (Matthew 27:51)

IN FRONT OF THE CURTAIN WAS A GOLD ALTAR

The priests would burn specific spices continually as a representation of the prayers going up to God (Isaiah 56:7, Psalm 141:2)

- The altar also represents Jesus as the mediator that allows us to be in the presence of God. During His ministry on earth, He prayed for believers.

THE ANGELS ON THE TOP OF THE ARK

The lid of the ark is called the mercy seat, and blood from the sacrifices was poured here. 2 cherubim, 2nd highest order and attenders to God, faced each other with wings pointed forward. Here, the shekinah glory was visible.

- Shekinah means "to dwell." Essentially, God's presence was visible to a degree above the ark

ALL OF THE CEREMONIES DIDN'T BRIDGE THE GAP

The priests did rigorous tasks daily and annually, and only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place and make a sacrifice for himself and the people. But, this only rolled back the problem, not removing it completely.

- The ceremonies show the cost of forgiveness and our dependency on Christ to save us

IGNORANCE AND BLOOD

Under the old covenant, the high priest could only atone for sins committed in ignorance, and blood had to be shed to pay for those offenses. So, the access to God even by the priests were limited

- Ordinary people had no direct access to God, but Jesus would change that by the pouring of His blood

SO, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE OLD WAYS?

They were not able to clear the conscience of the believer, but only roll away sin and its effects until Jesus permanently fixed the problem. They were a "symbol for the present time" (v9) meaning they pointed towards the ultimate solution.

- **We must look at the story as a whole, not just in parts.**

THE NEW WAY (HEBREWS 9:11-14) BUT THE MESSIAH HAS APPEARED...

Jesus purifies believers to live for and serve Him. Jesus is the real action behind the symbolic ones of the OT. He has granted us direct access to God the Father and has promised us earthly and eternal blessings

- Though He has provided blessings, not all who claim to follow Him have experienced those

THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF HIS BLOOD

Christ tore down the dividing wall, and His sacrifice needs no repetition

- **Salvation** which results in blessings now and eternally, forgiveness of sin, removal of shame and guilt, and confidence in Him that leads to removal of fear, depression, and anxiety **has been purchased, but must be claimed**

JESUS WORKS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

The OT ceremonies worked on the external person, not the conscience and mind of the believer. If the blood of animals could cleanse the external, how much more could the blood of Jesus fix us internally?

THE CLEANSING EFFECT OF CHRIST (V14)

Jesus chose to pursue us through His "eternal Spirit." He offered Himself voluntarily to a rebellious people "unblemished." He didn't deserve punishment, we did.

- He cleans our "consciences from dead works." Through Him, we can live at a higher standard. **We can value us because He values us!**

THE REMEDY (HEBREWS 9:15-22) FOR THOSE THAT WILL TRUST HIM

Jesus came to fix the problem of sin, which is simply a rebellion to God's design. **Jesus secures forgiveness for sins** and is the **mediator for us** to God the Father. He paid the ransom for our sins and has **liberated us from spiritual oppression**. But, **we must trust Him** in order to receive our "inheritance."

THIS WAS A PROMISE OR "WILL" LEFT BY GOD

"Where a will exists" death must take place for the recipient to receive inheritance (v16). Jesus died so we could receive the great blessings God has for us.

- This helps us understand blood sacrifice in the OT. The promises needed death for the "will" to be enacted.

FORESHADOWING THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Moses taught the commands of God and sprinkled the blood of calves along with other ingredients over the scroll of the Word and over the people

- Like the other rituals of the OT, this was symbolic of Christ's blood that covers us and seals His Word.

SOUNDS SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR (V20)

Moses stated that "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." This is very close to Jesus' inauguration of the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:28.

- Again, the point is the severity of sin requires blood to cover it (v22), and **only the blood of Christ was sufficient to cover humanity's sins**

THE RETURN (HEBREWS 9:23-28)

THE CROSS NEVER NEEDS TO BE REPEATED

The processes of the tabernacle were a "copy" of the "heavenly things." The "better sacrifice" was Christ. When it mentions the plural sacrifices of the OT, it shows that it took many sacrifices to symbolize the one act of Jesus.

- **Even at our best, we can only be a distorted reflection of God's goodness. No deeds we do stack up to Him!**

THE WORK OF CHRIST RESTATED (V24)

The "better sacrifices" are Jesus' work in the past and present. Christ died and rose for us, but He continually **intercedes for us, represents us, and accomplishes** things we could never do without Him. He also gives us the **Counselor and Comforter**; the Holy Spirit.

- Unlike the sacrificial animals, this was done voluntarily by Christ

BREAKING THE MINDSET

The Jews were so familiar with the repetitious sacrifice that the idea of Christ atoning for sin once and for all was hard to grasp. So, the author gave some simple facts

- He appeared on earth for a time to voluntarily die for our sins, and it was once and for all, no repetition needed.

WE ALL APPEAR A 2ND TIME (V27-28)

Just like people have an appointed time to die, Jesus did as well. We will all be resurrected again in a way when we are judged. The big difference here is that we will be judged, but Jesus will be the judge.

- **When Christ comes again it will not be to deal with sin, but to judge the works of mankind and fulfill salvation**

UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSACTION

- The OT protocols show the enormity of what Jesus fulfilled through the cross.
- He not only saves us from sin, shame, legalism, and eternal damnation, but in the present, He saves us from ourselves. We are incapable of good without God.

"TO THOSE WHO ARE WAITING FOR HIM"

- Where are our eyes fixed?
- Where do our priorities lie?
- Are we fluid enough to let God interrupt our lives? Even inconvenience us?
- What makes us so sure we're in right standing with God? Is there biblical evidence?
- If we've experienced grace, where is our passion and urgency?