

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 23RD, 2025 // HEBREWS

## THE PAST (HEBREWS 9:1–10) THE FIRST COVENANT

Made with Moses (Exodus 20-40); we see the people of God (the Israelites) in the desert. They are a nation without any order or laws. God gave them law; the 10 Commandments. He also gave them a ruler; Himself. He established a covenant with His people as the Lord over Israel.

- **This is the Mosaic Law.**

### REGULATIONS

There were a lot of standards that God set in order to be with His people. God is Holy; that means set apart. If He is to commune with His creation, there needs to be an understanding of what it means to come before God.

- **Sin separates; God unites. God made the Tabernacle to be with Israel.**

### SPIRITUAL EYES

God allowed a shadow of heaven to be seen, so that God could be with His people. In turn, God's people could see the living God. But this meant a surrender to the all powerful creator God. God gave a **pattern of worship**.

- **God gave Israel a physical reminder of a spiritual condition (Romans 6:23).**

### THE HOLY PLACE

The first room is on repeat.

- Lampstand: was one piece, made of pure gold, with six branches (Exodus 37).
- The Table: 36" long, 18" wide, 27" high, and overlaid with gold. It was a symbol of community and fellowship.
- Presentation loaves: a symbol of God's provision for His people.

### THE MOST HOLY PLACE

The Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25) contains a jar of manna (Exodus 16), Aaron's staff (Numbers 17), and stone tablets (the law God gave to Moses; Exodus 34).

- On the golden altar (Exodus 27), once a year, the high priest would sacrifice an animal according to the law for the sin of the people.

### LIMITED ACCESS

Israel was limited to temporary remedies that would not heal the conscience. Their debt was always lingering.

- **Jesus transcended the limitations of the old covenant. Jesus became what no human could, in order to do what no other human was able to do—die for all.**

### SYMBOLISM FOR THE PRESENT TIME

The people of God followed everything the priest did, but it still was not enough to cleanse their conscience. It was never enough. Does that mean God commanded and created a system that was flawed?

- Yes and No. He created a magnifying glass inside an incomplete system.

### GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE

God desires to be with His people. He designed a way for that to happen through the Tabernacle. It was by God's design that He would be worshiped in this way.

- **We submit to His Lordship. God is worshiped, understood, and honored on His terms. God's nature is outside of us, so, it is hard for us to see it fully.**

## NEW COVENANT (HEBREWS 9:11–22)

### THE NEW IS HERE BECAUSE OF THE OLD

The old covenant was ordained by God and was fulfilled by Jesus. What was done with animal blood is now fulfilled in Jesus' blood. The process was the same. The blameless, spotless lamb was sacrificed for the sins of many.

- **Jesus' blood covers us wholly because He is Holy.**

### JESUS IS HOLY

Jesus entered into the holy place once and for all. He is the perfect sacrifice. He did what no other sacrifice could do, cleanse us spiritually for eternity. He entered into a greater tabernacle, the everlasting tabernacle.

- **Jesus lived perfectly within the law of God. His death atoned for all sin.**

### THE NEW

Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant. The will must be established. An earthly example to describe a divine plan: a will is valid after death. Jesus' death inaugurates the will of God. Adam and Eve's sin separated humanity from God. God, in His grace, made a way for redemption (Genesis 3:15b, 19, 21).

### THE "WILL" OF GOD

The people of God now have unlimited access through Jesus our Mediator. His blood, shed on the cross, is the inauguration of the New Covenant. The old covenant was inaugurated by the blood of an animal (Exodus 24).

- **The penalty is the same. The blood of Jesus paid the penalty for Believers.**

## HEAVENLY VIEW (HEBREWS 9:23–28)

### PURIFIED

The sacrifice is what cleansed the people of sin, and set apart the earthly copies for the worship of God. The Tabernacle was a temporary picture of what would be eternal.

- **The blood of animals made the earthly Tabernacle holy. Jesus is perfect, so His sacrifice is better and eternal.**

## ONE AND DONE

By law, only the high priest could enter the holy of holies. He would do this yearly, with another's blood. In the same way Jesus entered on our behalf as only a high priest could. This time, it was not another's blood, but His own blood.

- **Jesus is better because His blood spilled once. Now the work is done.**

### BLOOD SPRINKLED

The blood was sprinkled to allow copies to be covered in blood, to be made holy before God.

- **Jesus entered the everlasting Tabernacle (the very presence of God) so He could "sprinkle" His blood to cover us—to make a way for us to worship God without blemish.**

### A SECOND TIME

Jesus' sacrifice removed sin's penalty for the Believer (Romans 3). His sacrifice was perfect and made the Believer right before God.

- **Jesus' resurrection from the grave offers the Believer hope after death. He promises to return, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation.**

### WHERE IS OUR FOCUS?

- The Hebrews were looking at the old when the new was in front of them.
- We have a tendency to look to the "old" too often and too closely.
- **The old magnifies our inability, which can lead to shame, despair, and apathy.**
- **When we focus on the old, we see what we need to do to be saved.**

### A BETTER VIEW

- **When we focus on the new, we see what Jesus has done for us.**
- Jesus' sacrifice removes the sins of all who would believe in Him.
- **By focusing on the grace that Jesus gives, we shift our gaze from what we need to do to be saved to a heart of thankfulness and worship toward God.**

### A HEART OF WORSHIP

- Why do we worship God?
- How do we worship God?
- We worship God not in a place, but with our lives. We worship God as we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28–34).
- Worship is a lifestyle, not a to-do list.