

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Hebrews - Lesson 9

Read prayerfully through all of Hebrews, chapter 9.

1) What kind of sanctuary does verse 1 tell us the **first Covenant** had?

Read **Hebrews 9:2-5**. The sanctuary of the Old Covenant was a picture of a far greater reality. The writer of Hebrews carefully lists for us the various parts of the sanctuary, as well as the furnishings within. The reason he went into such detail was because of the spiritual significance of each part. In **verse 23** we are told “these things” were “**patterns of things in the heavens.**” Let’s look at “**these things**” and at their spiritual meanings.

2) The two sections of the Tabernacle are referred to as “the first” (verse 2) and “the second” (verse 7). The first is the **Holy Place** and the second is the **Holy of Holies**. Each section had its own furnishings, and each piece of furniture had its own special meaning. We will first look at the furnishings in the **Holy Place**.

a) **The Lampstand** – Provided the only light to the priests for their ministry in the Temple. What do these Scriptures reveal to us about light?

- Isaiah 9:2 (Of the nation of Israel) –
- John 8:12 (Of Jesus) –
- Philippians 2:14-15 (Of the New Covenant Believers) –

b) **Table of Shewbread** – Called “the Bread of the Presence.” Record what **John 6:27 & 35** tell us about “Bread.”

- c) **The Golden Censor (Altar)** – Each morning and evening a priest burned incense on this altar. What does **Psalms 141:2** reveal to us about this altar?

How does this relate to **Romans 8:33 and 34**?

- 3) Now let's look at the furnishings in the **Holy of Holies**. Actually, the Holy of Holies only contained the **Ark of the Covenant**. It was a wooden chest measuring 3 feet, 9 inches long, 2 feet, 3 inches wide and 2 feet, 3 inches high. On top of this chest was the **Mercy Seat**, made of gold, with cherubs at each end. The Mercy Seat represented God's throne.

- a) Read **Psalm 80:1** and **Psalm 99:1** and record what these two Scriptures imply about this Mercy Seat *"between the Cherubim."*

Psalm 80:1 -

Psalm 99:1 -

- b) On the Day of Atonement, the Mercy Seat was sprinkled with blood to cover the tables of the Law within the Ark. Instead of God seeing the Law, that had been broken by man's sins, He saw *"the blood."* Record what **Romans 3:25** and **Ephesians 1:7** tell us about the blood of Christ.

Romans 3:25 -

Ephesians 1:7 -

4) What further points does the writer make to us about **the sanctuary of the Old Covenant** in the following verses from Hebrews, chapter 9? Read these verses along with the **contrasting verses** listed to record your answer.

- **Hebrews 9:6 & 7** (Contrast with **Hebrews 10:19-22**)

- **Hebrews 9:8** (Contrast with **Matthew 27:50-51**)

- **Hebrews 9:9 & 10** (Contrast with **Hebrews 7:15-16**)

5) After looking in detail at the old sanctuary, the writer now focuses through the rest of this chapter on the superiority of the **heavenly sanctuary** we are now a part of. In what way does **Hebrews 9:11** tell us this heavenly sanctuary is greater?

6) How often did the high priest of the earthly sanctuary have to make atonement for the nation of Israel? (See **Hebrews 9:25**)

a) According to **Hebrews 9:12**, how often must Christ make atonement for us?

b) The blood of goats and calves that the earthly priests offered was only good for a **temporary** covering for sin. What did Christ's offering obtain for us?

- 7) Read **Hebrews 9:13-14** and contrast these verses with **verse 9**. What is the difference between the high priest's mediating work described in **verse 9** and Christ's mediating work described in **verse 14**?
- 8) Read **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**. What were the blessings of the Old Covenant dependent upon in order for them to be given by God to the people?
- 9) What does **Hebrews 9:15** tell us about the promises we have been given? What is our receiving them dependent upon?

As we read through **Hebrews 9:16-23**, we see what the great sacrifice of Christ's ministry to us is based upon. The "**covenant**" means "**agreement**," but it also carries the definition of a "**Last Will and Testament**." The point the writer makes to us in these verses is that, since a Will does not come into effect until the writer of the Will dies, so it was necessary for Christ to die so that the terms of His agreement with us could be enforced. In the Old Covenant, as well as the New, **blood** (signifying death) was necessary for the Covenant terms of **forgiveness** to take effect (without the shedding of blood there is no remission – Hebrews 9:22).

- 10) **Verse 23** tells us that, "...Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these." The "**better sacrifice**" was, of course, the blood of Christ. The **power** of the blood of Christ is described for us throughout the Scriptures. In the following verses record what Christ's blood has done for us.

Acts 20:28 –

Colossians 1:20 –

1 Peter 1:18 & 19 –

1 John 1:7 –

Revelation 7:13 & 14 –

- 11)** Read **Hebrews 9:24-28**. So often we look at “the things made with hands” as the “real world,” but it is the “things made without hands” which are the “true” things. We, as Christians, *have reality*. Look up **2 Corinthians 4:18** and record the verse below.

- 12)** What things does **Hebrews 9:24** tell us about Christ’s true ministry to us?

- 13)** Read through **Hebrews 9:24-26**. What point is the writer making in these verses and how does he conclude his point in **verse 26**?

- 14)** As you read **Hebrews 9:27**, share how you would minister this truth to a “beloved unbeliever.”

15) Are you experiencing the joy and freedom you have obtained in Christ from the fears **verse 27** brings for the unsaved? What goes through your mind when you read this verse? Offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for this joy and freedom Christ has purchased for us. Write down your prayer below.

16) Notice that the word ***appeared*** is used 3 times in these verses, in **past, present, and future** tenses.

a) For what purpose did Christ appear for us in the **past (verse 26)**?

b) For what purpose does He **presently** appear for us (**verse 24**)?

c) For what purpose will He, in the **future** appear for us (**verse 28**)?

16) Share what this chapter has ministered most to your heart this week.