

## **"The Better Sanctuary"**

### **Part 1**

#### **Hebrews 9:1-12**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of the book of Hebrews we have come to chapter 9. Now before we step into this chapter I need to remind you of the theme of the book of Hebrews so that we can keep it at the front of our minds as we continue our study.

The theme of the book of Hebrews is "Jesus is Better". The writer is writing to Hebrew believers who were under persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. They had grown up in Judaism and when they heard of Jesus Christ they accepted Him as their Savior and turned their backs on Judaism. This step away from Judaism brought upon them the persecution from their fellow Jews. They were no longer permitted to go into the Temple. They were treated as outcasts by their own people within their own communities. So some of them were tempted to go back to Judaism just so they could relieve the pressure they were feeling in their lives and some of the believers were just hesitant to step away from Judaism and surrender completely over to Jesus Christ.

That is why we have this letter. The writer is writing to show the Hebrew believers that Jesus is Better than anything of the Old Covenant. He explained that Jesus is Better than the angels, the prophets, Moses, Aaron or any of the Levitical priests. The writer has shown that Jesus' Covenant is Better than the Old Covenant. He has shown them that the sanctuary which Jesus ministers in is far Better than the sanctuary which existed within the wilderness. The entire theme behind the writing of the book of Hebrews is to show that Jesus is Better than anything which is found in the Old Covenant. The writer is doing all he can to pull these believers along in their faith. He desires to get them out of their state of divided allegiance.

Now as we enter into Hebrews 9 the writer is going to GENTLY contrast the Earthly Sanctuary with the Heavenly Sanctuary. Before we step into Hebrews 9:1-12 I want to give you an outline of them so as to help us better understand what the writer is pointing to:

#### **I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary**

**Hebrews 9:1-5**

#### **II. Services in the Earthly Sanctuary**

**Hebrews 9:6-7**

### III. The Problem with the Earthly Sanctuary

Hebrews 9:8-10

### IV. The Heavenly Sanctuary

Hebrews 9:11-12

This is the outline we will be studying the next couple of weeks. Let us now get into the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

#### I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:1-5

##### Notice Hebrews 9:1

When I first read this verse I am reminded that the Holy Spirit desires to convince the Hebrews to let go of the Old Covenant and its "religious" practices and surrender over completely to Jesus Christ and the New Covenant. With that said let me remind you of something very obvious but often overlooked.

God never asks us to walk away from anything unless He first has something far better which He desires to give to us. That is the case here with the Hebrews and it is also the case for us who are believers today. God asks us to abandon this world and all of its teachings and the reason is He has something far better to offer to us. It is known as Eternal Life and it is far more than just knowing we are going to heaven when we die.

##### John 17:3

*<sup>3</sup> And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

God calls us to abandon this world so that we might have a deep fulfilling relationship with Him and His Son. So He asks us to walk away from the world for something that is far better. That is the very thing the writer is doing in the book of Hebrews.

I want us to notice the careful approach within this verse as the writer deals with the Hebrews. He gently points out to the Hebrews that the "ordinances" (ceremonies) of the sanctuary were "DIVINE" services.

The words "divine services" have a very interesting meaning. Here is how Vines defines this phrase:

*"the service and worship of God according to the requirements of the Levitical law"...*

So the idea here is the divine services were given by God as a way to worship Him.

**Notice 9:1 again.**

Notice the word "ALSO". This tells us the New Covenant also has "ordinances" included within it that are also part of the worship of God. There are 2 "ordinances" which are part of the New Covenant which we recognize today that are 2 ways in which we worship our Lord. They are BAPTISM and the LORD'S TABLE.

Now I point this out because of 2 reasons:

1. These 2 ordinances are taken rather lightly by many believers today. They are not spelled out here in Hebrews 9:1 but they are alluded to as DIVINE ordinances which were given by God as a part of our worship of our Lord.
2. The second reason I point them out is because there are people today who teach that Baptism and the Lord's Table are ordinances only for the Jews. We know this is inaccurate because both ordinances are part of the New Covenant and the New Covenant has replaced the Old Covenant. Since we are partakers of the New Covenant the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Table are for us to observe. They are part of our worship of the Lord.

Now let us get back to the thought within the verse. The writer tells his readers that the sanctuary in which the first covenant was exercised was "worldly" which means it was "earthly". The idea is that it was made of that which was of this earth and it was suited for this world. This is the writer's way of gently showing the Hebrews that the first Covenant was inferior to the New Covenant. In this verse he points out that the services were Divine (appointed by God) and then at the end of the verse he tells them it was "worldly" or it was of this earth. Let us notice now how he continues this thought.

**Notice Hebrews 9:2**

Now the writer begins to point to the furniture within the tabernacle and the idea is that each piece of furniture was a picture or a type of Jesus Christ as we see in verse 9.

<sup>9</sup> Which was a figure for the time then present...

We are going to look at the furniture which is mentioned here and we are going to see how each one is a picture of Jesus Christ. As the writer points to the furniture and we follow along we are able to see some very rich verses. There is something here which we need to notice before we get into the furniture.

On the diagram I gave you can see that in the middle of the Tabernacle there was the Holy Place and then the Holy of Holies. When the writer of Hebrews points out the furniture he never mentions that which is outside the Holy Place. In other words he never mentions the Altar of Burnt Offerings nor does he mention the Laver. These were both in the outer courtyard. But this raises a question, **“Why did the writer skip over the outer courtyard and these articles of furniture?”**

The answer to this question will show us the inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon the writer here. If the writer would have been writing without the inspiration he would have certainly pointed out the outer courtyard as well as the Altar and the Laver. But the Holy Spirit stepped over the outer courtyard and the furniture for a very good reason.

Everything in the outer courtyard pictures the REDEMPTIVE work of Jesus Christ while on the earth. The outer courtyard was uncovered and it was accessible to all people. The brazen altar pictures the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross and the fact that it is in the outer court, in the open, pictures Jesus Christ death on the cross as a “public” event in which God dealt with the sins of the world. The laver which stood between the brazen altar and the Holy Place pictured the cleansing that had to take place before anyone could enter into the presence of God and this cleansing can only be done by Jesus Christ.

Now let me put the typology of these 2 articles together to help us to see the picture by walking you into the Tabernacle. As we enter the Tabernacle we enter through the only door which exists and it is on the east end. This ONE DOOR is a picture of Jesus Christ and His exclusiveness to the Father.

#### **John 10:9**

*<sup>9</sup>I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

#### **John 14:6**

*<sup>6</sup>Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

As we come through the DOOR we approach the brazen altar. This pictures the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. This is where all the lambs were killed and their blood was shed for the sins of the people of Israel.

**John 1:29**

<sup>29</sup> *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Once we receive Him we are forgiven of all our offences. Next we come to the laver which is full of water. This was here for the priests to cleanse themselves from the blood of the sacrifices killed upon the altar. It was necessary for them to be cleansed before they entered into the Holy Place. This laver is a picture of the daily cleansing which is needed before we can get into the Holy Place because the Holy Place speaks of fellowship with our Lord. Without the daily cleansing there can be no fellowship with our Lord.

**John 13:8**

<sup>8</sup> *Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.*

**Ephesians 5:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it:*

<sup>26</sup> *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

Now we have come to the Holy Place and it is here that the writer of Hebrews will begin to point out the furniture. But why did he not mention the altar and the laver? It is because the writer's focus is upon fellowship with the Lord. He desires to get his readers into the "Holy Place". They have experienced the redemptive work of Christ for they are saved. But they are stopping short of walking in sweet fellowship with Jesus. It is his desire to help them to see the pictures in the furniture in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The writer desires to open their eyes to help them to see Jesus as their Great High Priest and how they can NOW come into the presence of God as recipients of the New Covenant.

**Notice Hebrews 9:2 again.**

Here the writer mentions 3 articles of furniture within the Holy Place. I want us to take the time to see the typology in each article.

1. **The Candlestick**

So many people do not understand the meaning of the candlestick within the Holy Place and so if you read many commentaries you will find the wrong application pertaining to the candlestick. You see, there are many who want to say that this candlestick is a picture of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. They will then quote from John.

**John 9:5**

*<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

This is NOT the picture in the candlestick! The candlestick is located in the Holy Place and the Holy Place was not accessible for all. If this candlestick would have been located in the outer court then we could say it pictured Christ as the Light of the World. But it is in the Holy Place so that application does not work.

This candlestick is a picture of the Light which is given to all believers as we walk in fellowship with our Lord. But there is more that we need to see.

**Exodus 25:31**

*<sup>31</sup> And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same.*

The candlestick was to be made out of one piece of solid gold. The solid gold was to be beaten into the shape of the candlestick.

The gold speaks of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we walk in fellowship with Him we are to be seeking at all times to bring to Him the glory through our lives. The fact that it was beaten into shape speaks of the suffering of our Lord and is a reminder to us that it is through His suffering that we are given the access into the presence of the Father.

This candlestick was to be kept burning at all times.

**Leviticus 24:1-4**

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*<sup>2</sup> Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn **continually**.*

*<sup>3</sup> Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD **continually**: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.*

<sup>4</sup> *He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD **continually**.*

The oil in the candlestick is a picture of the Holy Spirit. The fact that it was to burn continuously is a picture of the continuous supply of the Holy Spirit give to each and every believer. As we walk in fellowship with our Lord we are given a Light that the world knows nothing about. He illuminates our path and enables us to see this world through spiritual eyes and not worldly eyes.

The fact that it was the oil which burned and illuminated the lamp and the Holy Place is a picture of how it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to magnify and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **John 16:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

<sup>14</sup> *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

There is one more point I need to make about the candlestick.

### **Exodus 40:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle **southward**.*

Here we are told the candlestick was placed in the "south" part of the Holy Place. I believe this is very important. In the book of Jeremiah we are told that "evil" would come out of the NORTH. This was a reference to the Babylonians. In Job 37:17 the south speaks of warmth and peace. The fact that the candlestick is set in the south part of the Holy Place speaks of the peace which fills the heart of the believer as we walk in fellowship with our Lord.

### **Conclusion:**

Next week we will consider more of the furnishings in the Tabernacle.