

Hebrews 9:1-28

Session	Chapter	Topic
1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Introduction to Hebrews
2	Hebrews 1:5 – 2:4	Jesus is Greater than the Angels
3	Hebrews 2:5 – 3:6	Jesus' Sonship is Greater than Moses' Servanthood
4	Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13	Jesus' Rest is Better than Joshua's Rest
5	Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10	Jesus, Our Great Appointed High Priest
6	Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20	Exhortation to Persevere in Light of God's Promise
7	Hebrews 7:1-28	Jesus, High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek
8	Hebrews 8:1-13	Jesus, High Priest of the New Covenant
9	Hebrews 9:1-28	Jesus' Sacrifice is Greater

After demonstrating that Jesus Christ is a better high priest than the Levitical high priests, the author goes on to show that he is also better because he is the mediator of a new covenant (Heb 8:6). God promised a new covenant in the Old Testament (Jer 31:31-34), and Jesus Christ is the one who mediates that covenant.

In Hebrews 9, the author elaborates on the ministry of the high priesthood of Jesus. He contrasts the Old Testament worship and sacrifices in the tabernacle with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the greater tabernacle.

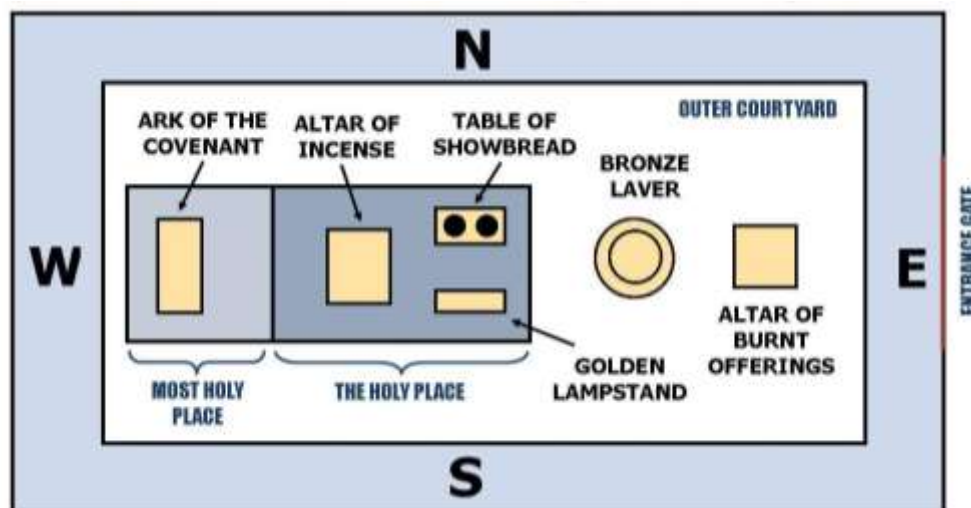
Launch

- 1) What do people tend to do to ease a guilty conscience?

Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle

Read Hebrews 9:1-10

- 2) As you read the passage, compare that to the following diagram of the tabernacle during Moses' time. What difference do you see? (cf. Ex 30:6, 40:26)



- a. How can we account for the discrepancy? (cf. Lev 16:12-13)
- 3) Using the diagram in Q1, write down the people that are allowed in the different areas. How often are they allowed there? (v6-7)
- 4) What does the high priest need to do in order to have access to the Most Holy Place? (v7)
- 5) According to the author, what is the Holy Spirit showing by the roles of the priests and high priest?
- 6) What was this meant to teach the Israelites about their access to God? (v9-10)

Christ's Greater Sacrifice

Read Hebrews 9:11-22

- 7) Fill in the table with the contrast that the author is drawing between the Old Covenant tabernacle worship and the new.

	Verse	The Old	The New
Tabernacle			
Access to the Most Holy Place			
Sacrifice			

- 8) What is the result of all that is listed under "New" in the table? (v15)
 - b. What do those who are called receive in the new covenant? What reason did the author give? (v15)
- 9) What did Moses do after he had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people? (v19-22)
 - c. Why do you think that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness?



The Greater Sacrifice in a Greater Tabernacle

Read Hebrews 9:23-28

- 10) What was necessary to purify the copies of the heavenly things?
 - d. What do you think is the “better” sacrifice than these used to purify the heavenly things?
- 11) What is the difference between what Christ entered and offered compared to the high priests of old? (v24-26a)
- 12) When did Christ appear and how did he do away with sin? (v26b)
 - e. What do you think the “culmination of the ages” means? (cf Heb 1:1-2)
- 13) What are the two things that are destined for people? (v27)
- 14) What will be the difference with Christ’s second appearance compared to his first? (v28)

Application

- 15) What does this passage teach us about the effectiveness of external regulations compared to the internal cleansing of our consciences? (cf. v9-10, v13-14)
 - a. How should that inform the way that we live our daily lives?
- 16) How does a better understanding of the Old Covenant practices (the priesthood, sacrifices and the tabernacle) help you to be more thankful for the work of Christ?

Conclusion

The author reminds his readers of how worship was conducted in the earthly tabernacle. It involved elaborate processes to purify each element of the temple, including the priests themselves. Even with that, it was never enough to clear the guilty conscience of the worshipper.

However, Christ came as the Melchizedekian high priest who mediates the new covenant. Instead of going through the earthly tabernacle, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle. As a result of that, “those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.” His one sacrifice took away the sins of many, without the need for repeated sacrifices. We praise God for the work of Christ, without whom we would still need to sacrifice animals regularly.