



JESUS

Up **C**lose and **P**ersonal

A Study of Hebrews | The Pastors' Bible Study 2013-2014

Hebrews 9:1-14

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¹ Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

² For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. ³ Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, ⁴ having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶ Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, ⁷ but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, ⁹ which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, ¹⁰ since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Reflection Questions

1. In 9:1, the author mentions that the first covenant had *regulations of divine worship*. God had ordered that certain things would take place when people gathered for worship. As you reflect on worship, what do you see as essential elements? Why are these important?
2. In 9:2-6, the author describes in detail the elements of the outer tabernacle of the Israelites. The elements all represent something about God's activity with His people. What elements in today's worship represent this same activity of God? In what ways do they inform and inspire your faith in Jesus Christ?
3. The author further describes the tabernacle in verse 7 by mentioning the most sacred area, the *Holy of Holies*. Only the High Priest was allowed there, and this was the place where sacrifices were offered to atone for Israel's sins. The author notes that the sins of the people were committed in *ignorance*. In what ways can sins be committed in ignorance? Reflect on how this has been true for you.
4. The author notes in verse 9 that the gifts and sacrifices offered by the High Priests are limited in that they cannot make the worshiper *perfect in conscience*. Reflect on what this means to you. What would a perfect conscience look like to you?
5. Jesus Christ is mentioned in verse 11-14 as a superior High Priest whose sacrifice was *once and for all* and which *cleanses our conscience from dead works*. How does this affect your understanding of *confession*, *repentance*, and *redemption*? In what ways does this strengthen your faith in Christ?