

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 7

Hebrews 9:1-28: The Heavenly Holy Place

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation).

– Hebrews 9:11 ESV

- **Two contrasting covenants**

Old Covenant

Good
Temporary
Mediated by men
The shadow
Depended on men
Partial

New Covenant

Better
Permanent
Mediated by Jesus
The substance
Depends on Christ
Complete

When God speaks of a “new” covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete.

It is now out of date and will soon disappear. – Hebrews 8:13 NLT

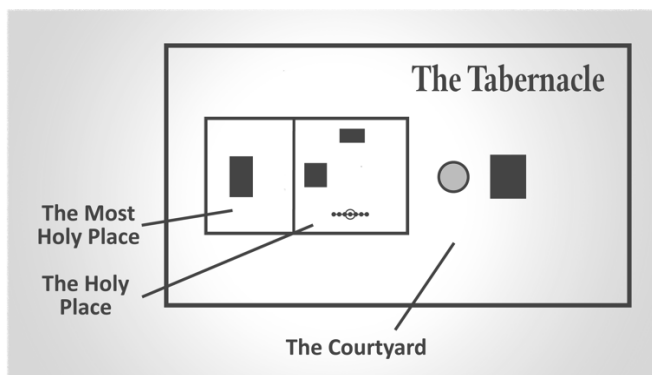
palaioō – to declare a thing to be old

- The old covenant had lasted 1500 years
- It had run its course
- It had fulfilled its objective
 - The full extent of man’s sin had been exposed
 - Even God’s chosen people were guilty
 - Knowledge of sin didn’t produce righteousness
 - Obedience to God’s law proved impossible
 - Sin revealed man’s need for a Savior
 - Earning salvation was a dead-end street

“...if the covenant of Moses’ day is antiquated, our author further implies, so must be the Aaronic priesthood, the earthly sanctuary, and the Levitical sacrifices, which were all established under that covenant. The age of the law and the prophets is past; the age of the Son is here, and here to stay.” – F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*

- **The earthly Tabernacle**

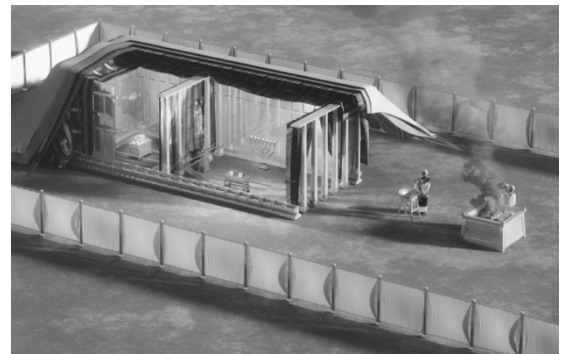
Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. – Hebrews 9:1-5 ESV



- A barrier to God’s presence
 - The veil limited access to God
 - But sin was the real problem
 - It separates fallen humanity from a holy God

pārōket – veil, curtain

Properly...*that which habitually shuts off*



*“And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil **shall separate** for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.” – Exodus 26:31-33 ESV*

*He [Bezalel] made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; **with cherubim skillfully worked into it he made it.** – Exodus 36:35 ESV*

- The barrier of conscience
*According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that **cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper**... – Hebrews 9:9 ESV*

“The curtain in the tabernacle was a barrier erected by God. But there is another barrier within. Knowing our guilt, we naturally erect our own barrier against God – we dread drawing near to his presence, dread seeing him in his holiness or being seen by him in our sin.” – Richard D. Phillips, *Hebrews*

“The real effective barrier to a man or woman’s free access to God is an inward and not a material one; it exists in the conscience. It is only when the conscience is purified that one is set free to approach God without reservation and offer him acceptable service and worship.” – F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*

- ...until the **time of reformation**...

*...gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,¹⁰ but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed **until the time of reformation**. – Hebrews 9:9-10 ESV*

reformation – diorthōsis

“a making straight, restoring to its natural and normal condition something which in some way has got out of line” – *Outline of Biblical Usage*

“a season of reformation, or the perfecting of things” – *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*

- **The superiority of Christ’s blood**

*But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but **by means of his own blood**, thus securing an eternal redemption. – Hebrews 9:11-12 ESV*

- The blood of bulls and goats
 - Could only purify “the flesh” (the outside)
 - But it couldn’t cleanse the heart
 - It dealt with the defilement of sin
- The ashes of the red heifer (Numbers 19)
 - Mixed with water and sprinkled on the defiled
 - Physically defiled from contact with the dead
 - Provided them with ceremonial cleansing
 - Restored them to communal fellowship

- **A will requires a death**

For **where a will is involved**, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. – Hebrews 9:16-17 ESV

- A will: promises dependent upon one's death
 - **will** – *diathēkē* – testament, compact
 - Same word translated as “covenant”
 - “the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death” – Outline of Biblical Usage

- **A death that redeems**

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. – Hebrews 9:15 ESV

- Jesus' death made redemption possible
 - Redemption from transgressions of the law
 - His death activated a new will and testament
 - For us to receive the “promised eternal inheritance” (vs 15), Jesus had to die
- The original covenant had been **conditional**
 - It's promises came with one condition: Perfect obedience

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, **being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today**, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.” – Deuteronomy 28:1 ESV

“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful **to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today**, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” – Deuteronomy 28:15 ESV

“All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you **till you are destroyed**, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.” – Deuteronomy 28:45 ESV

- Disobedience brought death

Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: **the soul who sins shall die**. – Ezekiel 16:14 ESV

For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 ESV

- **The non-negotiable necessity of blood**

Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. – Hebrews 9:18 ESV

- Blood was used to **inaugurate** both covenants
egkainizō – dedicated, consecrated

- Moses initiated the old covenant with blood

*Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "**Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.**"* – Exodus 24:7-8 ESV

*And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, **for this is my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* – Matthew 26:27-28 ESV

- **The benefits of Christ's soul-cleansing blood**

*Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*** – Hebrews 9:22 ESV

- The removal of our sin and guilt (John 1:29)
- The satisfaction of God's wrath (Romans 3:24-26)
- Our reconciliation to God (Romans 5:10-11)
- Our redemption...
...from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13-14)
...from slavery to sin (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- The assurance of eternal life (Hebrews 9:15)

*Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive **the promised eternal inheritance**...* – Hebrews 9:15 ESV

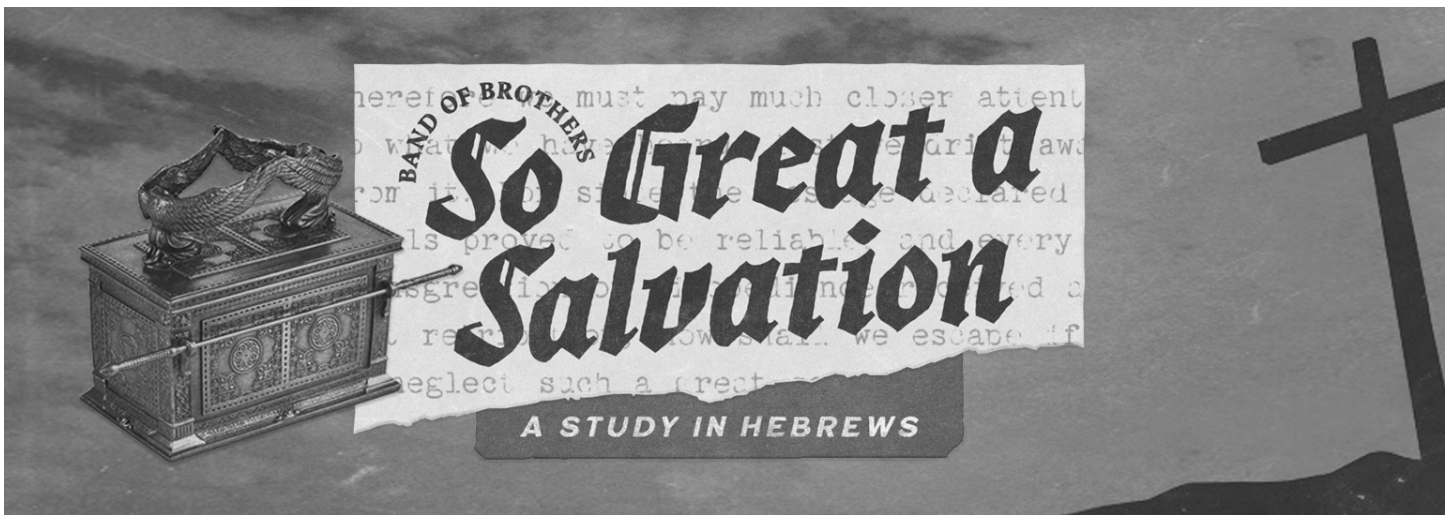
...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. – Hebrews 9:28 ESV

- **Discussion questions**

Go back and look at the benefits of Christ's blood. Which one(s) mean the most to you?

Why would news of a heavenly Tabernacle have been an encouragement to the letter's readers? Does it encourage you? Why?

According to verse 28, we should be waiting eagerly for Jesus' return. But why, and are YOU?



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SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

WEEK 8 – Hebrews 10:1-39: The Full Assurance of Faith

This week's lesson emphasizes Jesus' all-sufficient sacrifice. Unlike the sacrifices under the old covenant, which had to be offered repeatedly, year after year, Jesus' sacrifice was once for all. He offered up His sinless life as payment for the sins of mankind. He was not only blameless but perfectly obedient to every command of His Heavenly Father. He accomplished God's will and sacrificed His life in the place of sinful humanity, fully satisfying the just demands of His Heavenly Father and providing helpless, hopeless sinners with a way to be restored to a right relationship with God. What Jesus did made it possible for formerly rebellious sinners to draw near to God with no fear of judgment or death for their sins.

- Read Hebrews 10. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Over the week, read pages 59-70 of Ken's Devotionary™ on Hebrews.
- Look at verses 1-4. What are the inherent weaknesses in the old covenant and why did it need to be replaced with something better?

Why would it be silly for the Jewish believers to whom the author is writing to return to Judaism and all the sacrificial requirements under the law?

- Once again, the author takes his readers back to the Old Testament, using Psalm 40:6-8 as his reference. Read Hebrews 10:5-10, then read the passage from the Psalms. Why do you think he takes the words written by King David and attributes them to Jesus?

Now look at the following Old Testament passages and write down how they support what Jesus and David had to say.

Hosea 6:6:

Psalms 51:16:

How did Jesus accomplish the will of His Heavenly Father by offering Himself as the sacrifice for the sins of mankind?

- According to verses 10-14, how was Jesus' sacrifice different and better than that of the sacrifices of all other priests of all time?
- In verses 15-18, the author revisits the Jeremiah 31 passage he quoted earlier. What is the primary point he is trying to make this time?
- Read verses 19-25 again. According to these verses, why would the Old Covenant no longer be necessary and, therefore, obsolete?

What do you think it means to have "full assurance of faith" and how do these verses make it possible?

How should that assurance of faith show up in our relationships with others?

- Look closely at verses 26-31. Why would these words have struck fear in the hearts of the Jewish believers to whom they were written?

How do they make you feel?

- Why should the author's inclusion of verses 32-39 produce an opposite reaction in the hearts of his readers, including you?