

The book of Hebrews is a sermon on the better things Jesus offers in light of all those previously given, in the Old Testament, as a foreshadow of His fulfillment in the New. As chapter 9 continues with this premise, the author goes on to present a detailed contrast between the Old Covenant sanctuary (or tabernacle) and that of the New Covenant, where Christ ministers.

Hebrews 9:1-14

The Earthly Holy Place

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

There are fewer things better than the presence of a loved one. While the fall broke everything, including relationships, there is still a joy in the connection between family and friends that meets a particular need of every human. This is also why separation is such a struggle. When we are far apart, whether because of geography or conflict, there is sadness. But when we are connected in the presence of another, there is joy.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW have you experienced the joyful presence of a special loved one in your life?

HOW does the separation from another create longing or perhaps even pain?

WHY do you think God made relational connections so important to people?

DESCRIBE how God has made a connection with us that allows us into His Presence.

Hebrews 9:1-14

The Earthly Holy Place

Read Hebrews 9:1-14

OBSERVATION

What regulations and furniture within the tent mentioned in vs. 1-5?
Where was the priest allowed, how often, and what did he take with him into the first and second sections of the tent (vs. 6-7)?
According to vs. 8, what does the Holy Spirit indicate, or show?
What does vs. 9 say the sacrifices cannot perfect?
Who did Christ appear as, according to vs. 11, and where did He enter on our behalf?
What did Christ secure and for how long, according to vs. 12?
Describe the comparison made in vs. 13-14?
What happened to our conscience (vs. 14), and for what purpose?

INTERPRETATION

What is another name for the “tent” the author speaks of in vs. 2? What is the meaning of this “tent”?

Verses 1-5 gives a brief synopsis of the tent. Consider Exodus 25-31 and the original “blueprints” of it.

What was the annual event mentioned in vs. 7? See Leviticus 16 for insight.

Why was blood necessary for the priest to offer for himself and the people? Consider Leviticus 17:11 and Romans 6:23.

What was the Holy Spirit showing the people in the establishment of the Old Covenant tabernacle process, according to vs. 8? What does the New Covenant work of Christ accomplish that the Old process couldn't (vs. 9-10)?

According to the Old Covenant tabernacle and sacrificial system, how accessible was God to the people?
How much more accessible is His Presence in the New Covenant?

How are we to respond, specifically, to the cleansing of our conscience because of Christ, according to vs. 14?

APPLICATION

Do you long to be in God's Presence?

What keeps you from delighting in His Presence?