

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
A Study of Hebrews 9:1-28
By Pastor Marcus Bates

Introduction – Review

- The apostle Paul is believed to be the author of the epistle to the Hebrews (**GC 347, 411, 413, 420-421**).
- Timothy was a close ministry associate of Paul, and is mentioned by name in the epistle (**Heb. 13:23**), similar to other epistles written by Paul (**2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:2; 1:18; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:1; Philemon 1:1**).
- Produced prior to Jerusalem’s destruction in AD 70, this epistle was written to Jewish Christians, and might have also been used as an evangelistic tool to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel message.
- One of the central themes in the book of Hebrews is the “**Jesus is better than . . .**” theme.
- **Heb. 1:1-14** (Jesus is better than angels); **Heb. 2:1-18** (Jesus is better than any human being); **Heb. 3:1-19** (Jesus is better than Moses); **Heb. 4:1-16** (Jesus offers a better rest – salvation, Sabbath, and eternal life); **Heb. 5:1-14** (Jesus has a better priesthood – Melchisedec); **Heb. 6:1-20** (Jesus offers better promises); **Heb. 7:1-28** (Jesus is a better priest than the OT Melchisedec was); **Heb. 8:1-13** (Jesus ministers and serves in a better sanctuary).

Hebrews 9 – Reflections on Hebrews 9:1-5

- The first covenant during the Old Testament period had earthly services and an earthly sanctuary.
- The first room, called the holy place, contained the golden candlestick and the table of shewbread.
- Within the inner (second) veil, the second room, referred to as the most holy place, had the golden censor and the ark of the covenant, inside of which were the golden pot with manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant containing the Ten Commandments.
- Over the Ark of the Covenant were the two Cherubims on the mercy seat; some have wondered about the identity of these two Cherubims; they might have originally been Christ (Michael) and Lucifer (**Eze. 28:14-16**); since Lucifer fell from grace to become Satan, some believe Gabriel has replaced him (**Luke 1:19**).

Hebrews 9 – Reflections on Hebrews 9:6-10

- When the earthly sanctuary and its services were in operation during Old Testament times, the earthly priests performed their sacred work on a daily basis in the holy place as ministers of God.
- The high priest also performed his sacred work in the most holy place once each year, presenting sacrificial offerings for his own sins and the sins of the children of Israel.
- The way into the heavenly sanctuary was not apparent or relevant to believers at that time while the earthly sanctuary was still in operation.
- These earthly services were figures for that period of history; yet, the sacrifices offered during this period could not make the priests or the people perfect and without sin in terms of their conscience.
- These services consisted of meat offerings, drink offerings, different types of washing, carnal ordinances related to sacrifices, which were required until the time of reformation, i.e. the time when Christ offered Himself as the sacrificial Lamb of God and ended these temporary ordinances (**Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:13-17**).

Hebrews 9 – Reflections on Hebrews 9:11-14

- Christ, however, is a high priest of better things to come, as the one true sacrifice and high priest of a greater and more perfect tabernacle, i.e. the heavenly sanctuary.
- This sanctuary in heaven was not made with human hands, and Christ did not enter this sanctuary with the blood of goats or calves; rather, He entered the heavenly sanctuary with His own precious blood, having accomplished the plan of salvation, which is available to all people.
- If the Old Testament sacrificial system had any type of purifying merit to the Israelites, how much more will Christ’s blood purge the human conscience from dead, sinful works so that we can serve the living God with faithfulness and a pure conscience?

Hebrews 9 – Reflections on Hebrews 9:15-21

- As One who offered the supreme sacrificial offering for sin, Christ is the Mediator of the new testament.
- His death has allowed all people, regardless of whether they lived before, during, or after His first advent, to be forgiven for their transgressions and receive the promise of eternal life.
- Those who lived prior to His first coming are also saved by His sacrifice, which was reflected in types and shadows through the Old Testament sanctuary and sacrificial system.
- The death of the One who upholds the testament is necessary for the testament to be of any value, which Jesus Christ accomplished through His sacrificial death.
- The first testament was enforced through the blood of animals, and pointed forward to Christ's death.
- However, the second testament is enforced through the blood of Christ, which is the only blood that has any saving merit; Moses sprinkled and dedicated the earthly sanctuary with the blood of animals, which was a process that pointed to how Christ would dedicate the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood.

Hebrews 9 – Reflections on Hebrews 9:22-28

- Forgiveness for sin can only take place when blood is shed as an atonement for sin; shed blood symbolizes the death of a substitute so that the sinner might be forgiven and retain life.
- The pattern of heavenly things, i.e. the earthly sanctuary, was purified by the blood of animals, because Christ's blood had not been shed at that point in history; yet, the heavenly sanctuary will be purified by the blood of Christ when He blots out the record of our sins from the record in the heavenly sanctuary.
- Christ has not entered the earthly sanctuary (which was made with human hands), but has entered into heaven itself (where the heavenly sanctuary is located) to appear in God's presence for us.
- He doesn't have to offer up Himself as a sacrifice every year (as the earthly high priests had to offer up a sacrifice every year); rather, one time He has offered Himself up as a sacrifice so that He can put away our sins through a process of judgment.
- Christ was offered once as a sacrifice to bear the sins of the human race, and when He appears the second time to bring salvation, the faithful who look for His return will be declared sinless and saved by God.

Summary of Hebrews 9:1-28

- The earthly sanctuary and its services were reflective of the heavenly sanctuary and its services as conducted by our high priest Jesus Christ.
- The earthly sanctuary had two rooms, the holy place and the most holy place, and each of these rooms had their respective furniture pieces.
- Each room had a service associated with it; the holy place had the daily service and the most holy place had the Day of Atonement service; the priests performed the daily service and the high priest performed the Day of Atonement service.
- The one piece of sanctuary furniture not mentioned in vs. 1-7 is the golden altar of incense, which was used in both services of the earthly sanctuary.
- Christ does not need the blood of animals to minister in the heavenly sanctuary, nor does He need a personal sacrifice, as did the OT priests who ministered in the earthly sanctuary.
- Rather, through the merits of His own eternal sacrifice, Christ is able to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary through a process of judgment; when He returns the second time, the sins of the faithful will have been blotted out, and they will receive eternal salvation at Christ's return.
- The merit of Christ's blood and intercession can empower us to be purged and cleansed from our sins, so that we can live with a clear conscience in a life that is faithful to Christ.
- In essence, this chapter teaches us that Christ offers us a better sanctuary and a better intercession, which are both offered through the merits of a better sacrifice – His sacrifice as the Lamb of God!