

Hebrews 9:1-28 A Better Tabernacle

1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.
2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

- The Brazen Altar and Laver were situated outside the Tabernacle in the Courtyard and visible to all
- Inside the Tabernacle in the first section called the Holy Place, resided the Menorah (candlestick), Table of Shewbread, and Altar of Incense
- The Holy Place was also referred to as the sanctuary
- The priests ministered within this area daily

3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;
4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;
5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

- Behind the Veil was the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies
- The Ark of the Covenant resided in this area containing a golden pot with manna, Aaron's Rod that budded, and the tablets of the Law
- Manna – represented Israel's rejection of God's promises (Promised Land)
- Aaron's Rod – represented Israel's rejection of God's priesthood
- Tables of the Law – represented Israel's rejection of God's law
- The Ark's lid, called the *mercyseat*, completely covered its top and had two cherubim fashioned onto the top that overshadowed the lid, also translated *propitiation*

Romans 3:25

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

- It was in this consecrated and sacred place that one man on one day of the year, entered with blood to offer for his own sins and the sins of the nation
- The Day of Atonement

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

- These ordinances could not even make the priest perfect, much less the congregation

10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

- *Reformation*, Greek for *straighten thoroughly* or *rectify* (like the setting of a bone)

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

- Christ's sacrifice is better because it is eternal, a once offered, perfect atonement for sins
- Inversely, Hell and the Lake of Fire are also eternal because the death of the lost does not satisfy the penalty of the law in a way to cause annihilation of that soul (the soul continually dies because the penalty is not fulfilled)

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- In Jewish history, they record nine sacrifices of the perfect red heifer used to dedicate the people and tabernacle of God (six of these were sacrificed before the time of Christ)
- Many Jews believe the tenth red heifer will be sacrificed by the Messiah to coronate the building of the new temple
- In some ways this is true, but symbolically Christ fulfilled the purpose of this heifer and has entered the tabernacle not built with hands
- This heifer was without blemish (purity), had never been yoked or under bondage (sinless), red (a picture of the cross), and killed outside the camp (just as Jesus was led out of the city to His death)
- This red heifer was also the only recognized female sacrifice
- 30 pieces of silver was the price of a female slave
- In this context, Jesus was a substitute for a female, namely, his bride (the church)
- Just as the heifer was examined, Jesus appeared before the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate
- Jesus was also clothed with a scarlet robe by the Roman soldiers before He was presented to the crowd
- The heifer was killed in front of the priests just as they accompanied Jesus to the place of His execution
- The writer encourages his readers to realize their former religious ceremonies as dead works

Numbers 19:6

6 And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

- The last will and testament of any person become effective upon their death, what might alter the course of lives when effective exists only as paper until that death

16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.
18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.
19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,
20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.
21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.
22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;
26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.