

STUDYING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 15 - Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle - Hebrews 9:1-10

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

HEB 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. [2] A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. [3] Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, [4] which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. [5] Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover.* But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

HEB 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. [7] But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. [8] The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. [9] This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. [10] They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 15 - Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle - Hebrews 9:1-10

160. What aspect of the old and new covenants is compared in this passage? (9:1)
161. What was in the first room of the earthly tabernacle? (9:2)
162. What was the first room called? (9:2)
163. What was behind the second curtain in the tabernacle? (9:3)
164. What two objects were in the room behind the second curtain? (9:4)
165. What was inside in the ark of the covenant? (9:4)
166. What was above the ark? (9:5)

167. During the year, who typically ministered at the tabernacle, and in which part did this ministry take place? (9:6)
168. What three severe restrictions were placed upon entrance to the inner room of the temple? (9:7)
169. For whom was blood offered on the Day of Atonement? (9:7)
170. What truth was the Holy Spirit teaching through the once-a-year offering for sin under the old covenant? (9:8)
171. What symbolic truth did the Mosaic tabernacle teach about sin? (9:9-10)
172. What are some practical steps you can take when you feel touched by a guilty conscience?

Lesson 16 - The Blood of Christ - Hebrews 9:11-28

HEB 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. [12] He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. [13] The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. [14] How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

HEB 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

HEB 9:16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, [17] because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. [18] This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. [19] When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. [20] He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." [21] In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. [22] In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

HEB 9:23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than

these. [24] For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. [25] Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. [26] Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. [27] Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, [28] so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 16 - The Blood of Christ - Hebrews 9:11-28

173. How is the heavenly tabernacle in which Christ serves as high priest described? (9:11)
174. By what means did Christ enter the Most Holy Place? (9:12)
175. How many times did Christ enter the Most Holy Place? (9:12)
176. What ritual cleansing ceremony did a high priest typically complete before he entered the Most Holy Place? (9:13)
177. To what degree was a high priest considered clean? (9:13)
178. How was Christ's sacrifice on our behalf different from the usual sacrifice for sin on the Day of Atonement? (9:14)
179. What benefits do believers in Christ derive from the sacrifice Christ made on their behalf? (9:14)
180. What is our promised eternal inheritance? (9:15)
181. What must happen in order for sins to be forgiven? (9:22)
182. As a high priest, why did Christ enter heaven instead of an earthly man-made sanctuary? (9:24)
183. How is Christ categorically different from every other high priest? (9:25-26)
184. What fate awaits every person? (9:27)
185. How will Christ's Second Coming differ from His first advent? (9:28)

186. Why couldn't we receive our promised eternal inheritance apart from the death of Christ?