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HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

In Your Group Read Hebrews chapter nine (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 King James Version

HEB 9: [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 showbread; which is called the sanctuary. **[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. **[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: **[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; **[10]** Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. **[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. **[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? [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. [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. (EXODUS 24:8)** [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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**HEBREWS CHAPTER 9
VERSES 1-4**

Hebrews 9:[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 showbread; which is called the sanctuary. [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; (King James Version)

9 Now in that first covenant between God and Israel, there were regulations for worship and a sacred tent here on earth. ² There were two rooms in this tent. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and loaves of holy bread on the table. This was called the Holy Place. ³ Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place. ⁴ In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark

were a gold jar containing some manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant with the Ten Commandments written on them. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: Verse 1 – The first covenant or agreement between God and His people had ordinances of divine service, (i.e., rules, regulations and laws governing worship) and a worldly sanctuary (i.e., a sanctuary on this earth).

Verse 2 - In this sanctuary, tabernacle or tent, there were two rooms or compartments. The first room contained a golden candlestick, a table with holy bread upon it, and this room was called the Holy Place.

Verse 3 – After the second veil or curtain, there was the room called the Holiest of all or the Holy of Holies.

Verse 4 – In that room (the Holy of Holies), it contained the golden censer (a golden incense-altar), and the ark of the covenant (a golden chest covered on all sides with pure gold). Inside that ark (or chest) was a golden jar that had some manna in it, Aaron's rod that had budded and stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

VERSES 5-10

Hebrews 9: [5] And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. [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: [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; [10] Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. (King James Version)

⁵Above the golden chest were statues of angels called the cherubim—the guardians of God's glory—with their wings stretched out over the ark's golden cover, called the mercy seat. But enough of such details. ⁶Well, when all was ready, the priests went in and out of the first room whenever they wanted to, doing their work. ⁷But only the high priest went into the inner room, and then only once a year, all alone, and always with blood that he sprinkled on the mercy seat as an offering to God to cover his own mistakes and sins and the mistakes and sins of all the people. ⁸And the Holy Spirit uses all this to point out to us that under the old system the common people could not go into the Holy of Holies as long as the outer room and the entire system it represents were still in use. ⁹This has an important lesson for us today. For under the old system, gifts and sacrifices were offered, but these failed to cleanse the hearts of the people who brought them. ¹⁰For the old system dealt only with certain rituals—what foods to eat and drink, rules for washing themselves, and rules about this and that. The people had to keep these rules to tide them over until Christ came with God's new and better way. **(The Living Bible)** **Additional Information: Verse 5** – In the Holy of Holies, above the ark (or

golden chest), were statues of angels called cherubs that stretched out over what was called the mercy seat (a place of atonement and thought to be the dwelling place of God upon the earth – Isa. 37:16). The writer says, “We cannot speak in detail about this now.”

Verse 6 – Under this arrangement, the priests went in and out of the first room, doing their work (performing their duties).

Verse 7 – Only the high priests went into the Holy of Holies, and then only once a year (never without blood, to sprinkle on the mercy seat for his sins and the sins of the people).

Verse 8 – By all of this, the Holy Spirit indicates (in a visible form) that as long as this outer room (tent) and the entire system it represents is still in use, the way into the Holy of Holies has not yet been opened to the common people.

Verse 9 – This is a figure for the time then present (i.e., being under the law), in which gifts and animal sacrifices could not perfect the conscience of the worshiper.

Verse 10 – This old way of worship was made up of laws about food and drinks, ceremonial washings, regulations for the body, valid until the new order (New Covenant) should be established.

Verse 10 - The Greek word for “**reformation**” is *diorthosis* and means “a making straight” and denotes a “reformation” or reforming, Heb. 9:10. The word has the meaning of a right arrangement, right ordering, and what is here indicated is a time when the imperfect, the inadequate, would be superseded by a better order of things. (Vine’s Lexicon)

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

VERSES 11-14

Hebrews 9: [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. [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? (King James Version)

[11] But [that appointed time came] when Christ (the Messiah) appeared as a High Priest of the better things that have come and are to come. [Then] through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with [human] hands, that is, not a part of this material creation, [12] He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, having found and secured a complete redemption (an everlasting release for us). [13] For if [the mere] sprinkling of unholy and defiled persons with blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a burnt heifer is sufficient for the purification of the body, [Lev. 16:6, 16; Num. 19:9, 17, 18.] [14] How much more surely shall the blood of Christ, Who by virtue of [His] eternal Spirit [His own preexistent divine personality] has offered Himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the [ever] living God? **(The Amplified New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verses 11-12 Christ has now come, as the High Priest of all the blessings and good things that were to come. He bypassed the old tabernacle (made by man’s hands), and entered the

true tabernacle in heaven (the real Holy of Holies) presenting His blood. In so doing He obtained for us eternal redemption (freed us from sin forever).

Verses 13-14 The Contemporary English Version states, “13 According to the Law of Moses, those people who become unclean are not fit to worship God. Yet they will be considered clean, if they are sprinkled with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a sacrificed calf. 14 But Christ was sinless, and he offered himself as an eternal and spiritual sacrifice to God. That’s why his blood is much more powerful and makes our consciences clear. Now we can serve the living God and no longer do things that lead to death.”

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

VERSE 15

Hebrews 9: [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. (King James Version)

¹⁵ Christ died to rescue those who had sinned and broken the old agreement. Now he brings his chosen ones a new agreement with its guarantee of God’s eternal blessings! **(Contemporary English Version)**

Additional Information: Verse 15 – “And for this cause (because He did this, i.e., offered Himself to God as a perfect sacrifice), he is the mediator of the new covenant” (The word **mediator** refers to one who intervenes between two, either to make or restore peace....The Messiah acts as a go-between or mediator between a holy God and sinful man. By His death on the Cross, He removes the obstacle, sin, which caused an estrangement between man and God. Wuest Word Studies, pgs. 162-163).

“That by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament” (Messiah became the Mediator not only in order that He might pay the penalty of sinners who live since the Cross, but also that He might do so for those who lived before the Cross. Sinners who were saved under the First Testament were actually saved, not by it or by any sacrifice offered under its jurisdiction, but through the atoning work of Messiah under the New Testament. Wuest Word Studies, p. 163).

The result being: **“they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance”** i.e., that the people who are called to an eternal inheritance, may actually receive it. And what is that eternal inheritance? “The life that lasts forever just as He promised them” (New Life Study Testament, v. 15).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

VERSES 16-22

Hebrews 9: [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. (EXODUS 24:8)

[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. (King James Version)

[16] When a man dies, he leaves a will (agreement). But people must prove that the man who wrote that will is dead. **[17]** A will means nothing while the man who wrote it is still living. The will can be used only after the man dies. **[18]** It is the same with the first agreement between God and his people. There had to be blood (death) before the agreement could be made good. **[19]** First, Moses told all the people every commandment in the law. Then Moses took the blood of calves and mixed it with water. Then he used red wool and a branch of hyssop to sprinkle the blood and water on the book of the law and on all the people. **[20]** Then Moses said, "This is the blood that makes the agreement good—the agreement that God commanded you to follow." **[21]** In the same way, Moses sprinkled the blood on the Holy Tent. He sprinkled the blood over all the things used in worship. **[22]** The law says that almost everything must be made clean by blood. And sins cannot be forgiven without blood (death). **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verses 16-17 The Contemporary English Version states, "16 In fact, making an agreement of this kind is like writing a will. This is because the one who makes the will must die before it is of any use. 17 In other words, a will doesn't go into effect as long as the one who made it is still alive." The New Covenant was put into effect at Jesus' death. His death marked the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. A will or covenant (such as this) is put into effect only after death.

Verses 18-22 "18 Blood was also used to put the first agreement into effect. 19 Moses told the people all that the Law said they must do. Then he used red wool and a hyssop plant to sprinkle the people and the book of the Law with the blood of bulls and goats and with water. 20 He told the people, 'With this blood God makes his agreement with you.' (A quotation from Exodus 24:8). 21 Moses also sprinkled blood on the tent and on everything else that was used in worship. 22 The Law says that almost everything must be sprinkled with blood, and no sins can be forgiven unless blood is offered" (CEV).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 VERSES 23-25

Hebrews 9: [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; (King James Version)

²³ That is why the earthly tent and everything in it—which were copies of things in heaven—had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals. ²⁴ For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our Advocate. He did not go into the earthly place of worship, for that was merely a copy of the real Temple in heaven. ²⁵ Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, like the earthly high priest who

enters the Most Holy Place year after year to offer the blood of an animal. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: Verse 23 – The tabernacle down here on earth, and everything in it (all copied from things in heaven), had to be purified by being sprinkled with the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven, of which these down here are copies, have to be purified by a higher sort of sacrifice. “It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens (the tabernacle down here and everything in it) should be purified with these (blood of animals); but the heavenly things themselves (real things in heaven) with better sacrifices than these.”

Verse 24 – “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” (NIV).

Verse 25 – Christ didn’t go into heaven to offer Himself as a sacrifice many times, as the High Priest goes into the earthly Holy of Holies with the blood of animals.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 VERSES 26-28

Hebrews 9: [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. (King James Version)

[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. **(New International Version)**

²⁶ If he had offered himself every year, he would have suffered many times since the creation of the world. But instead, near the end of time he offered himself once and for all, so that he could be a sacrifice that does away with sin. ²⁷ We die only once, and then we are judged. ²⁸ So Christ died only once to take away the sins of many people. But when he comes again, it will not be to take away sin. He will come to save everyone who is waiting for him. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[26] For then Christ would have had to die many times since the world began. But He came once at the end of the Old Way of Worship. He gave Himself once for all time. He gave Himself to destroy sin. **[27]** It is in the plan that all men die once. After that, they will stand in front of God and He will say if they are guilty. **[28]** It is the same with Christ. He gave Himself once to take away the sins of many. When He comes the second time, He will not need to give Himself again for sin. He will save all those who are waiting for Him. **(The New Life Testament)**

[26] For then would He often have had to suffer [over and over again] since the foundation of the world. But as it now is, He has once for all at the consummation and close of the ages appeared to put away and abolish sin by His sacrifice [of Himself]. **[27]** And just as it is appointed for [all] men once to die, and after that the [certain] judgment, **[28]** Even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will appear a second time, not

to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[26] If Christ had offered himself many times, then he would have needed to suffer many times since the time the world was made. But Christ came and offered himself only once. And that once is enough for all time. Christ came at a time when the world is nearing an end. Christ came to take away all sin by offering himself as a sacrifice. **[27]** Every person must die once. After a person dies, he is judged. **[28]** So Christ was offered as a sacrifice one time to take away the sins of many people. And Christ will come a second time, but not for people's sin. Christ will come the second time to bring salvation to those people who are waiting for him. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verse 26 – If Jesus was like the Old Testament priest He would have to offer a sacrifice over and over, resulting in Him dying and offering Himself again and again. But no! He came once, at the end of the age, and put away sin by his sacrificial death for us.

Verse 27 - Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Verse 28 - Christ was sacrificed once to take away sins and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring full salvation to those who are waiting for him.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Hebrews Chapter 9)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Hebrews Chapter 9.**

1. **Read Hebrews 9:1.** In the first covenant between God and Israel, there were regulations for worship and a sacred tent here on earth. True or False.
2. **Read Hebrews 9:8.** Under the first covenant the common people could not go into the Holy of Holies, that is, the presence of God. True or False.
3. **Read Hebrews 9:7.** The High Priest went into the Holy of Holies only once a year and never without the blood of an animal to sprinkle on the Mercy Seat for his sins and the sins of the people. True or False.
4. **Read Hebrews 9:12.** Christ our High Priest went into the real Holy of Holies in heaven and with His own blood secured complete an eternal redemption for us. True or False.
5. **Read Hebrews 9:15.** The Messiah paid the penalty of sinners since the cross and before the cross. True or False.
6. **Read Hebrews 9:22.** Sins cannot be forgiven without the wages of sin being paid, which is death. Hebrews 9:22 states that without the shedding of blood there is no remission. True or False.
7. **Read Hebrews 9:24.** Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our Advocate, someone who helps us. True or False.
8. **Read Hebrews 9:27.** It is appointed for men to die once, after that there is: a. a funeral. b. a memorial service. c. the Judgment.
9. **Read Hebrews 9:28.** For those who look for Jesus to appear a second time, He will bring: a. a white horse. b. their guardian angel. c. their full salvation.
10. **Read Hebrews 9:28.** Christ had to die only once to take away the sins of many people. True or False.

Instructions for Group Leader: You may want to summarize the chapter (for the group) by reading aloud the following.

Putting the Chapter in Context: Hebrews Chapter 9.

Christ did not repeat his sacrifice year after year as did the Levitical high priests. Christ's sacrifice was perfect and was offered only one time because it was completely effective and did not need to be repeated. After Jesus had obtained eternal redemption, he ascended into the true heavenly sanctuary and will return again to earth to bring full salvation and glorification to those looking for his return (Heb. 9:25-28).

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