

# Hebrews 9:1-14

## Week Thirteen

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



*Heavenly Father, I humble myself before you. Please teach me through your Holy Spirit and let your word penetrate my heart so that I will know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that I may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph.3:19).*

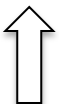
- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2-Hebrews 9:1-5

Using the arrangement of the tabernacle and the priestly service, the author of Hebrews shows how the New Covenant is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and points to how Jesus is the reality of everything the Old Covenant foreshadowed.

1. What two things did the Old Covenant have according to verse 1?

-What does this tell us about God?



*God thank you for initiating a relationship and making a way for your people to come to you.*

2. What was the first section of the tabernacle (tent) called according to verse 2?
  
3. According to verse 2, what items were in the Holy Place?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is the name of the second section of the tabernacle according to verse 3?

-What is separating the two sections?

Scholar's Note: The author of Hebrews places the golden altar of incense in the Most Holy Place (also called the Holy of Holies), but “the Old Testament makes it clear that this item was located in the outer room [right in front of the curtain] and not the holy of holies, as the writer of Hebrews must have known.”<sup>1</sup>... “Indeed, it had to be outside the Most Holy Place, for it was in daily use (Exod 30:7-8).”<sup>2</sup> “In verse 4, however, he associates [the altar of incense] with the inner sanctum because of the vital role the cloud of incense played in covering the high priest's approach as he passed through the curtain on the Day of Atonement.”<sup>3</sup>

5. With the information given in verses 4 and 5 describe the Ark of the Covenant that sat in the Most Holy Place.

## Day 3-Hebrews 9:1-5

Critical Connection: The author tells us in v. 5 he doesn't want to go into detail about the items in the tabernacle, but since we are not as well acquainted with these things as the original readers were, we will take the time and go into detail so that we will have a more full understanding of how Jesus is the fulfillment of these significant symbols.

### Old Covenant Symbols<sup>4</sup>:

-**The Holy Place**-Where the priests had daily fellowship with God; they lit the incense each day and ate the Bread of Presence at the table in the Holy Place.

-**The Bread of Presence**- There were 12 loaves which symbolized 12 tribes of Israel and God's provision. The loaves were replaced every week on the Sabbath.

-**Lampstand**-the light it gave symbolized God's revelation of himself.

-**The Golden Altar of Incense**- symbolized the prayers of God's people rising up to God.

-**The Most Holy Place**- Where God's presence dwelt.

-**The Curtain (veil)**- Symbolized the separation between Holy God and sinful humans.

The Ark of the Covenant that resided in the Most Holy Place contained three items:

-**Stone tablets** with the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God reminding the people of God's covenant with them.

-**Jar of manna** reminding them of God's provision.

-**Aaron's rod** showing that Aaron was called by God to be the high priest.  
(Nu.17)

-**Mercy Seat**- Situated on top of the Ark, the Mercy Seat symbolized God's divine throne and presence. With sprinkling of blood on the Mercy Seat the sins of the people were atoned for and the judgment of God is transformed into grace and mercy.

Jesus- the fulfillment of the Old Covenant symbols:

Next to each verse write the symbol (above in bold) that was fulfilled by Jesus. There are 10 symbols and 10 blanks to fill in. (This is hard, but trying to understand how Jesus fulfills everything needed for salvation is worth it!)

(Answers on p.15)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Hebrews 5:5-6* <sup>45</sup> *“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Romans 8:34* <sup>44</sup> *“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 5:17* <sup>47</sup> *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ *John 1:4-5* <sup>44</sup> *“In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 1:23* <sup>44</sup> *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ *John 14:6* <sup>44</sup> *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

8. \_\_\_\_\_ *1 John 2:2* <sup>42</sup> *“He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*  
*Romans 3:25a* <sup>44</sup> *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*  
*Romans 5:9* <sup>44</sup> *“And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.” (NLT)*

9. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ *John 6:31-35* <sup>431</sup> *“Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”<sup>32</sup> Jesus*

then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”



*Heavenly Father, thank you for your wisdom and goodness in creating these detailed shadows that point to Jesus and help me understand who he is and all he has done for me.*

## Day 4-Hebrews 9:6-10

6. Who was allowed access into the first room – the Holy Place, according to verse 6?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Who was allowed access into the second room – the Holy of Holies, according to verse 7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What ceremony had to accompany the High Priest going into the Holy of Holies according to verse 7?

-How often?

-What kind of sin was this for?

-What kind of sin then, is not atoned for?

Scholar's Note: "The sins "committed in ignorance" point to the truth that there is ignorance that is culpable. Sins of this kind do matter, and we should be on our guard against minimizing their seriousness. In Ecclesiasticus 23:2 the son of Sirach asks not to be spared discipline for these sins of ignorance (he uses the same word that appears here), lest they multiply and bring him low."<sup>5</sup>

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the question:

What sacrifice is available for intentional sins?

What are the implications of this?

*Numbers 15:30-31: "But anyone who sins defiantly whether native-born or alien, blasphemes the Lord, and that person must be cut off from his people. Because he has despised the Lord's word and broken his commands, that person must surely be cut off; his guilt remains on him."*



Tim Keller states, "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe..." We are blind to much of our sin and the depths that it goes to in our hearts. This is true even for those who struggle with guilt and are well aware of some of their flaws and sins. Besides our intentional sins we have hidden faults we can't discern and we commit sins unintentionally. And because our God is holy this is an offense to him. The rest of this quote by Keller says, "...yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." This is the "good" in the good news of the gospel! In Jesus, all our sins – hidden and obvious, unintentional and deliberate – can be forgiven!

- ❖ One of the prayers that God almost always answers affirmatively is when we ask him to reveal our sins to us. In addition to praying about and confessing deliberate sins, make it part of your prayer life to ask God to reveal the sins you are blind to.

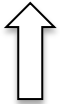
Psalm 19:12-13a says, <sup>12</sup>*How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.* <sup>13</sup>*Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. (NLT)*

9. Read verse 8 in the NLT. What kind of access would be available to the Most Holy Place once the tabernacle and sacrificial system was replaced?



With the old sacrificial system the majority of people were kept at a distance from God. Only the high priest could ever have access to God, and then only once a year. But because of Jesus, we have unlimited access to the Most Holy Place, the throne room of God! Ephesians 2:13 puts it this way, “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

- ❖ What words come to mind that describe how it is to be far off from God?
  
- ❖ Spend some time pondering the wonder of being brought near. What words describe those feelings?



*Jesus, thank you that I am no longer far off! With your perfect sacrifice you brought me near!*

10. What can't the sacrifices and offerings accomplish according to verse 9?

-What did the regulations of the sacrificial system have to do with according to verse 10?



## Day 5-Hebrews 9:11-14

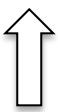
11. What is Jesus the high priest over according to verse 11?

-What are the good things that have come with Jesus and the new covenant? (See Day 5 of chapter 8 for a reminder of some of them.)

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

Highlight more good things we have in Jesus that you find in these verses.

*Ephesians 1:3-8,11,13-14* “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”



*Heavenly Father, in Jesus you have blessed me with every spiritual blessing! You are a generous and lavish Father! I don't lack for anything. Please forgive me for taking these blessings for granted. Help me to daily live in the reality of these riches.*

12. In what way was Jesus' blood so superior to the blood of animals according to verse 12?

13. According to verse 13, what is the only type of cleansing the blood of animals can effect?

14. What kind of sacrifice is Jesus according to verse 14? (See NLT)

15. What does Jesus' blood cleanse according to verse 14?



Just think of the joy and amazement Jewish converts to Christianity must have felt to know that Jesus' blood was poured out for them in a one-time sacrifice that cleansed them from all sin and left them purified, free from guilt and able to come into God's presence with confidence! No more endless sacrifices that only went skin deep. No more standing far off from God. Jesus was both high priest and perfect sacrifice!

- ❖ We don't have the contrast of having to offer endless sacrifices that weren't effective on sin to then resting on Jesus' once and for all sacrifice like these Jewish Christians did, but what contrast can you find on how you dealt with sin and guilt before Jesus, compared to with Jesus? What did you do to try and ease your conscience before Jesus?
  
- ❖ The blood of animals cleansed the people from outward defilements like coming in contact with a dead body, but it could not cleanse a guilty

conscience. Even as a believer how does a guilty conscience keep you from coming into God's presence? What is the remedy that Jesus provides?

- ❖ If you are a believer and you struggle with guilt from sins you have repented from, how does the truth expressed in verse 14, relieve you of that guilt? Memorize this verse so that you can take hold of this truth and apply it to your heart when the struggle arises.

Picture and Ponder: “It is a universal experience that conscience is largely autonomous in its operation; though sometimes we can suppress or stifle it, it normally speaks independently of our will, and sometimes, indeed, contrary to our will. And when it speaks, it is in a strange way distinct from us; it stands over us, addressing us with an absoluteness of authority which we did not give it and which we cannot take from it. To personify conscience and treat it as God's watchman and spokesman in the soul is not, therefore, a mere flight of fancy, it is a necessity of human experience.”<sup>6</sup>

For Discussion: “Our conscience tells us what we must think of ourselves, but the blood of Christ tells us what God thinks of us in Christ.”<sup>7</sup> How do these two things go together?

16. What is the purpose of Jesus' cleansing of our consciences mentioned in verse 14?



It's so easy to think that Jesus' sacrifice was only about us escaping God's wrath, but our Hebrew's author shows us that the blood of Jesus purifies us to serve the living God! Revelation 1:5b-6a says, “*All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of*

*priests for God his Father.*”(NLT) And Isaiah 61:6 tells us, “...you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God.” Jesus is the High Priest and he made the perfect sacrifice of his own blood so that his Father will have a kingdom of priests for “the service and praise of his glorious name.”<sup>8</sup> We are a royal priesthood made to proclaim the excellencies of God (1 Peter 2:9)! We were saved *to* something not just *from* something. We were saved and made God’s people to serve and praise him!

- ❖ Instead of physically lighting a lamp, as the priests who served in the tabernacle did, how do we serve in this manner — only spiritually?
  
- ❖ Just as the priests sent up incense before God, how do we do this spiritually?
  
- ❖ The priests offered sacrifices to God everyday as part of the worship life they led. Romans 12:1 tells us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is our spiritual worship. This verse conveys to us that worship is not a one-hour on Sunday morning experience, but it happens continually as we offer our bodies to God. How does offering yourself as a living sacrifice play out in your everyday life?
  
- ❖ How will you be intentional about proclaiming the excellencies of God?
  
- ❖ How does knowing you were bought by the precious blood of Jesus in order to serve and praise God change your thinking or attitudes about your role as God’s child?

Picture and Ponder: Excerpt of a devotion by Charles H. Spurgeon:

*1 Peter 1:19 "...the precious blood of Christ..."*

“Standing at the foot of the cross, we see hands and feet and side all distilling crimson streams of “precious blood.”

It is “precious” because of its *redeeming and atoning efficacy*. By it the sins of Christ’s people are atoned for...they are reconciled to God, made one with Him...

It is “precious” in its *cleansing power*; it cleanses from all sin...permitting us to stand accepted in the Beloved despite the many ways in which we have rebelled against our God.

The blood of Christ is also “precious” in its *preserving power*. We are safe from the destroying angel under the sprinkled blood...

The blood of Christ is also “precious” in its *sanctifying influence*. The same blood that justifies by taking away sin also quickens the new nature and leads it onward to subdue sin and to obey the commands of God.

And “precious” unspeakably precious, is this blood because it has an *overcoming power*. It is written, ‘And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb; (Rev.12:11)’”<sup>9</sup>

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 3658).

<sup>2</sup> Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

<sup>3</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 3658). Kindle Edition.

<sup>4</sup> These thoughts and definitions taken from Rose Publishing, Symbolism in the Tabernacle and Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 3658). Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

<sup>6</sup> J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 1990, reprint (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 110.

<sup>7</sup> Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 3881-3882). Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Spurgeon, Charles H. Morning and Evening, Revised and updated by Alistair Begg, Crossway, Wheaton, Ill. 2003 p. April 16

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1. [Aaron's rod](#) Hebrews 5:5-6 <sup>45</sup> *So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."*
  
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  9. [Manna](#) 10. [Bread of Presence](#) John 6:31-35 <sup>31</sup> *Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'* <sup>32</sup> *Jesus*