

The Better Sanctuary

Hebrews 9:1-10

Happy Mother's Day
5/12/10

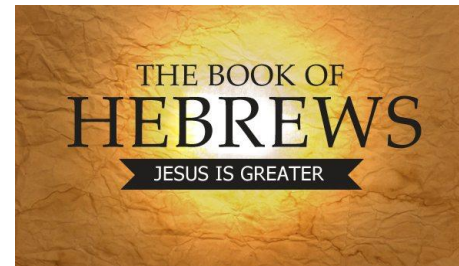
Do we realize how blessed we are to have full access to our God?

Hebrews 9:1-10 (NIV); *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 and the table with its 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.*

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 functioning. 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.

Main point today; the sanctuary in heaven where Jesus resides with the Father is better than the old sanctuary that was here on earth. It provides access to God through Christ.

The Old Covenant sanctuary in all of its beauty, splendor and glory was inferior to the New. The author of Hebrews was brief, but this is how they laid it out: Verse 1; the Old Covenant sanctuary is of this earth, therefore it had issues. But the new sanctuary is in heaven, it's the original. Verses 2-5, the Old Covenant sanctuary is a mere shadow of things to come. Verses 6-7, the Old Covenant sanctuary had a very limited access to the people. Verse 8, the Old Covenant sanctuary was temporary.



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Verses 9-10, the Old Covenant sanctuary was ineffective in changing the heart.

So what did the Old Covenant sanctuary provide?

- limited access to God
- limited purification
- place to worship
- a measure of obedience

What the Old covenant sanctuary really did was provide a “shadow” of Christ and what was to come through God’s promised Son. Today, Jesus exercises His priestly duty from a better sanctuary. No longer an earthly sanctuary but a heavenly one.

Verse 5; But we cannot discuss these things in detail now. No need to waste too much time in the past! When Christ came, the worshippers heart changed. God changes the focus. No longer is there a needed emphasis on the place of worship, like the tabernacle. There’s neither a need to emphasize the items within a place of worship.

Our emphasis as followers of Jesus Christ should be on Him. The nature of our worship, the heart of worship- that we come to worship with all we are, our hearts open, our minds focused, our wills humbled- as those who have been saved.

Notes:

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