

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

March 2014

Hebrews

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Lesson #11: The New Covenant (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION

What place was considered off limits for you when you were growing up? Why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Hebrews 9:1-10

Note: The obstacle in the way of the Hebrews faith was their failure to see the ceremonial law (covenant, sacrifices, priesthood and ritual) was preparation for the better character of the new covenant. The first covenant was not worthless or pointless, but had a temporary nature. Tabernacle means tent, implying a transitory existence. Rather than depreciate the prophets, leaders and angels, the writer exalts and praises them since they were God-ordained and purposeful. In doing so, he exalts Christ even more because Jesus is even more superior than them.

1. What items were in the outer room? Why? Ex 25:1-2; 8-10; 16; 23; 30; 31

Note: The 12 loaves (representing the 12 tribes of Israel) were called the Bread of Presence (showbread) because they signified God's presence and Israel's acknowledgement that it was provided only by God's blessing.

2. Why was the Holy of Holies (Most Holy room) separate? How (when) was it used? Ex 26:31-33; Lev 16: 29; 34 *Note: Under the old covenant, the high priest could only atone for sins ... committed in ignorance (Heb. 9:7; see also Num. 15:29-30). No atonement was available for sins committed willfully. The fact that the priest offered this sacrifice annually showed that it never succeeded in completely removing sin.¹*

3. What separated the two rooms? Ex 26:31 Why only one entrance? Jn 14:6

Read Hebrews 9:11-14 ; Mk 15:38

Note: Some people say that this brief passage contains the doctrinal heart of the letter to the Hebrews.

4. How can Christ be both the sacrifice and the priest? Why only sacrifice once?

5. What is the significance of Christ's entry into the Holy of Holies?

6. Why is His blood better than that of goats and bulls? 1 Jn 2:2; Jn 1:29; Jn 3:16

APPLICATION

What can (do) you do with a guilty conscience? 1 Jn 1:9 What difference does Christ make? 2 Cor 5:17

I read about a woman who lost both kidneys. For eight months she had lived on a dialysis machine. The machine took the place of kidneys temporarily. The article went on to tell how she had been disappointed three times as donor kidneys were thought available for transplants, then refused. The transplant was her real hope. She only used the machine until real kidneys became available.

It was like this with the Old Testament saints. The sacrifices, like the dialysis machine, kept them going. But the real hope for life was that someday a cure could be found. Someday transplanted life might deal with the sickness from within. And until then, the repeated sacrifices only reminded Israel of how sick with sin they really were. Jesus, the true Sacrifice to which all the animal sacrifices had pointed, in one unique act, perfected forever those of us set apart to God by His death.²

¹ Lea, T. D. (1999). Vol. 10: Hebrews, James. Holman New Testament Commentary (167). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²Richards, Larry ; Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Teacher's Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1987, S. 1006