

HEBREWS 9:1-14

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Jesus has thoroughly dealt with our sins! This is aptly described in the third stanza of Horatio Spafford's hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul:"

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
 My sin, not in part but the whole
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

Sin is a greater issue than men acknowledge or realize. A holy God could not and cannot bless, regard, or have a relationship with people tarnished by sin. Yet, because God, by His very nature, loved mankind, He established a covenant by which men's sins could be covered until the Messiah would come. This first covenant contained a holy tabernacle, holy furnishings, holy rituals, a holy law, and daily holy sacrifices in order to cover and temporarily atone for the sins of His people. However, the first covenant was inadequate. It could only offer an outward and impermanent solution for the problem of men's sins.

Hebrews 9 explains the impermanence and inadequacies of the first covenant. This necessitated the perfect, permanent, and priceless covenant brought to us through the offering, work, and eternal gift of Jesus. Through Christ, God has established a new covenant that deals *not in part, but the whole* of our sin. Through the blood of Jesus, we are cleansed internally and eternally from our sins, allowing us the privilege of serving God with clean consciences.

*Ask God to increase your understanding and appreciation
 for the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.*

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 9:1–5

1. In Hebrews 8, the author demonstrated the superiority of God’s new covenant through Jesus Christ over the old covenant, which had been predicated on Israel’s obedience. This contrast deepens in Hebrews 9. What is stated about the first covenant? Hebrews 9:1
 - a. Pastor David Guzik notes that the old covenant was *planned by God, but planned for an earthly service*.⁹ Why would this make the first covenant inferior?

2. As part of the first covenant, *a tabernacle was prepared* according to God’s instruction as a place for Him to meet with His people (Exodus 29:43). In Hebrews 9:2–5, the author detailed the contents of this *tabernacle*. Recall that these earthly things are a *copy and shadow of the heavenly things* (Hebrews 8:5). With this in mind, fill in the following chart:

ITEM	OLD COVENANT SHADOW	NEW COVENANT REALITY	YOUR TAKEAWAY
Lampstand	Exodus 27:20	Isaiah 49:6b John 8:12	
Table with showbread	Exodus 25:23–24, 30	John 6:35	

ITEM	OLD COVENANT SHADOW	NEW COVENANT REALITY	YOUR TAKEAWAY
The veil	Exodus 26:31–33	Matthew 27:51 Hebrews 10:20	
Golden censer (Altar of incense)	Exodus 30:1–10	Psalm 141:2 Revelation 5:8	
Ark of the covenant/ Mercy seat with cherubim	Exodus 25:21–22	1 John 2:2	

a. Use the following Scriptures to note and comment on the significance of each item inside the *ark of the covenant*:

(1) The *manna*—Exodus 16:32, Deuteronomy 8:3

(2) *Aaron's rod*—Numbers 17:1–5, 8–11

(3) The *tablets of the covenant*—Deuteronomy 10:4–5

- b. What do you find most intriguing about the *ark of the covenant*?

3. The tabernacle was a pattern of the heavenly temple and God's work of redemption through Christ. This, no doubt, was one of the reasons the author could not *speak in detail of these things* (Hebrews 9:5b). What stands out to you from his description of the *tabernacle*?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 9:6–10

1. Having detailed the contents of the *tabernacle*, the author described the rituals of the *priests*. Use Hebrews 9:6–7 to contrast and comment on the priestly activity in:
 - a. *The first part* of the tabernacle—Holy Place (verse 6)

 - b. *The second part* of the tabernacle—Holiest of All (verse 7)
 - (1) What do you find most remarkable about the Holiest of All?

2. By these strict rituals, what did the Holy Spirit indicate concerning the *Holiest of All*? Hebrews 9:8

- a. In the tabernacle, there was a massive curtain (the veil) several inches thick that separated the Holy Place from the Holiest of All. This curtain symbolized that the *way into* the presence of God was restricted. Read Leviticus 16:2 to further comment on this.

- b. Under the new covenant, the *way into the Holiest of All* was opened. Use Matthew 27:50–51 to note and comment on the moment that this occurred.
 - (1) How does this minister to you concerning the new covenant through Jesus Christ?

3. Hebrews 9:9–10 (NLT) says, *This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.* What do you glean from this concerning:
 - a. *Gifts and sacrifices*

 - b. *The old system*

HEBREWS

c. *Physical regulations*

d. How do these things expose the need for a *better system*? See also Colossians 2:16–17.

4. Considering the rituals of the old covenant, share a reason you are thankful for the new covenant through Jesus Christ.

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 9:11–12

1. The author of Hebrews explained that even the priestly service (in the earthly tabernacle) of the old covenant foreshadowed a new eternal covenant. According to Hebrews 9:11a, Who *came as High Priest* to establish the new covenant?

a. Link this with Galatians 4:4–5 to remark on His coming.

2. Use Hebrews 9:11b to describe the *tabernacle* Christ ministers in.

a. Why is this *tabernacle* superior?

3. Under the first covenant, only the high priest could only enter the *Most Holy Place* (Holiest of All) with *the blood of goats and calves* to make atonement for sin (Hebrews 9:12a). Use Hebrews 9:12 to note and remark on the following concerning Jesus:
 - a. How He *entered* (verse 12b)
 - b. Where He *entered* (verse 12c)
 - c. How many times He *entered* (verse 12d)
 - d. What He obtained when He *entered* (verse 12e)
- (1) Connect this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:
 - (a) Romans 6:10
 - (b) Ephesians 1:7
 - (c) 1 Peter 3:18
 - (d) Revelation 5:9

4. Concerning Jesus' death, Pastor Chuck commented, *He entered into the presence of God, having obtained eternal redemption for us. And so with His own blood He was then both the sacrifice and the sacrificer. He was both the offering and the one who offered.*¹⁰ How does this speak to you?

5. Share a way your study today has enhanced your appreciation for Jesus as your High Priest.

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 9:13–14

1. The author proceeded to draw another contrast between the old and new covenants. From Hebrews 9:13, describe the process by which sanctification took place under the old covenant.

2. Use Hebrews 9:14 to fill in the blanks below concerning sanctification under the new covenant:
 - a. *How much more shall the _____*

 - (1) Use the following Scriptures to describe the offering of Christ:
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:18–19

 - (b) Revelation 1:5

 - b. *Who through the _____ offered Himself _____ to God*

(1) Link this with 1 Peter 3:18 and share your observations.

c. *Cleanse your _____ from _____*

(1) Link this with 1 John 1:9. What do you see?

(2) Recall that the Hebrew believers were constantly tempted to go back to the rituals of Judaism to ensure their salvation. Why would this be an important reminder to these believers? See also Ephesians 2:8–9.

d. *To _____ the _____*

(1) Link this with Romans 12:1. Share your thoughts.

(2) Why is such service a fitting response to the work of Jesus?

3. Write a word of personal thanksgiving for the blood of Jesus.

