

Christ, Our Sanctuary; Hebrews 9:11-12

I. Earthly Holy Place

A. "On the one hand"

1. A typical Greek beginning to a comparison, "on the one hand" you have this, "on the other hand" you have this
2. So, "on the one hand" we have the earthly sanctuary (tabernacle)
3. Hebrews 9:1–5; 1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

B. Regulations for worship

1. Every Hebrew reading this letter would immediately recall the Levitical law
2. Every different type of sacrifice, the blood of bulls and goats, lambs and turtledoves
3. The old covenant had rules and regulations for worship
4. Ceremonial washings, a particular way to present and sacrifice as offering, certain ways to sprinkle the blood, etc.
5. The implication is that the new covenant also has rules and regulations for worship
6. John 4:23–24; 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
7. 1 Corinthians 14:26; What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
8. 1 Corinthians 14:40; But all things should be done decently and in order.

C. The Tabernacle

1. The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place
2. Distinguished by two different Greek words
3. It is set up for the Day of Atonement
4. Holy Place
 - a) Candle stand
 - b) Table of Show Bread
5. Most Holy Place
 - a) Altar of Incense (normally in the Holy place except for the Day of Atonement)
 - b) Ark of the Covenant
6. Detailed worship inside the tabernacle
7. Hebrews 9:6–8; 6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. 8 By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing
8. Ritual Duties in the Holy Place

- a) Luke 1:8–10; 8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.
- b) Leviticus 24:5–9; 5 “You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf. 6 And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the Lord. 7 And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the Lord. 8 Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the Lord regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. 9 And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, since it is for him a most holy portion out of the Lord’s food offerings, a perpetual due.”
- c) Leviticus 24:1–3; 1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. 3 Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the Lord regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.
- d) The lamp stand was the only source of light in the Holy Place
- e) These were daily duties commanded by God and conducted by the Levitical Priesthood

9. Ritual Duties in the Most Holy Place

- 10. Leviticus 16:29–33; 29 “And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you. 30 For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins. 31 It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever. 32 And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father’s place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments. 33 He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

D. The earthly Holy and Most Holy Place were set up with separation in mind

E. And atonement had to be made before anyone could enter

II. Heavenly Holy Place

A. “On the other hand”

- B. Hebrews 9:11–14; 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

C. At Jesus’ crucifixion the veil was torn in two, uniting the two separate rooms

- 1. No longer was the Most Holy Place only for the high priest, but for all priests (for all people)
- 2. 1 Peter 2:9; But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

3. It was not the blood of bulls and goats that completed the atonement, but it was His own blood, making His sacrifice better, making His sacrifice the one that satisfied God's wrath
- D. The writer takes the Hebrew from daily sacrifices to one completed sacrifice with no more needed
- E. "Once for all"
1. One death to overcome all sin
 2. Romans 6:9–10; 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.
 3. Hebrews 9:26; for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
 4. One death for all people
 5. Hebrews 7:27; He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.
 6. One entrance into the Holy and Most Holy Place for all to enter
 7. Hebrews 9:12; he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.
 8. One sacrifice means sanctification for all (set aside for holiness)
 9. Hebrews 10:10; And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- F. The Heavenly Holy place is Jesus, who resides in us along with His Father and the Holy Spirit
- G. Jesus opened the way to the Father for us all... Once for all!
- III. Christ, Our Sanctuary
- A. Jesus has removed the sin problem and restored our relationship with God
 - B. Jesus has returned us to an "Eden" relationship with God