

# The Old Deal?

## Hebrews 9:1-10

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction:

- We are always looking for the best deal possible!
- The Jews listening to the preacher to the Hebrews thought that they already had God's best deal.
- The preacher is claiming even a better deal-- the superiority of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is superior to...
  - The Old Testament prophets as the final voice from God
  - The angels
  - Moses
  - Joshua
  - The High Priest
    - Sitting at the Father's right hand
    - Surety of a better covenant, the New Covenant
    - Offers superior service
    - Source of eternal salvation.
      - Hebrews 7:25-- *"He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*
- The preacher is going to show the superiority of the New Covenant by contrasting it with the old in Hebrews 9. He is going to compare the "old deal" with the "new deal".

### The Old Deal?

- Hebrews 9:1-10-- *"Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation."*

#### A. **Inception:** The Old Covenant was instituted by God

- Hebrews 9:1-- *"Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary."*

#### B. **Expansion:** The Old Covenant in more detail.

##### 1. **The Old Sanctuary**

- Hebrews 9:2-5-- *"For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail."*

- a. **Outer court**-- 150 feet by 75 feet
  - 1) Bronze altar used for sacrifices
  - 2) Bronze laver or basin used for ceremonial washing
  
- b. **Tabernacle proper**-- 45 feet by 15 feet
  - 1) **The Holy Place**
    - a) The Lampstand
    - b) Table of showbread
    - c) Altar of Incense
      - Exodus 30:6-8-- *"And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations."*
  
  - 2) **The Holy of Holies**-
    - Hebrews 9:3-5-- *"And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat."*
    - a) *"Behind the second veil"?* (Exodus 26:31, 36-37)
  
    - b) **The "golden censer"**
      - (1) Since no "golden censer" is mentioned by Moses as pertaining to the Tabernacle, some believe this a reference to the altar of incense instead.
      - (2) But the altar of incense is located in the Holy Place, not the Holy of Holies.
      - (3) A censer or firepan was carried by the High Priest into the Holy of Holies on the day of Atonement.
        - Leviticus 16:12-13-- *"Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die."*
      - (4) Since all the utensils used in the Holy of Holies were made of gold, it is highly probable that the High Priest would use a censer that was made of pure gold. (1 Kings 7:50)
  
    - c) **The Ark of the Covenant**
      - Exodus 25:22-- *"And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."*
      - (1) **Items inside or near the Ark of the Covenant**
        - (a) "golden pot of manna"
          - Exodus 16:33-34-- *"Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations." As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept."*
  
        - (b) Aaron's rod that budded
          - Numbers 17:8--*"Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds."*

- Numbers 17:10-- *"Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."*
- (c) Two tablets of the covenant
- Deuteronomy 10:3-- *"made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand."*
  - Deuteronomy 10:5-- *"Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me."*
- (2) Contents of the ark when placed in Solomon's temple.
- 1 Kings 8:9-- *"Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."*
- (3) What happened to the Ark of the Covenant?
- 3) Comments regarding spiritualizing and typology of the furniture of the tabernacle.

## 2. The Old Sacrifices

- Hebrews 9:6-7-- *"Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance."*
- a. The Daily Activities of the Lesser priests,
- b. The Day of Atonement and the High Priest
- 1) The Day of Atonement was intended to make sacrifice for all sins not covered under the daily sacrifices.
  - 2) Only the High Priest could enter the presence of God once a year on the Day of Atonement.
  - 3) Activities of the High Priest on the Day of Atonement
    - 1) Begins with ceremonial washing and putting on the elaborate robes
    - 2) Performing the prescribed daily sacrifices
    - 3) After the daily sacrifices, a complete bath and then he put on a white linen garment.
    - 4) He carries a gold censer of incense into the Holy of Holies. (first trip)
    - 5) He returns outside to offer a bull for sacrifice for his own sins and collects the blood in a bowl.
      - Leviticus 16:11-- *"And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is himself."*
    - 6) He takes the blood into the Holy of Holies, sprinkles some on the mercy seat of the ark of the Covenant. This is to make atonement for his own sin. (Second trip)
    - 7) He goes back outside where two goats are waiting for him. By casting lots, one goat is for the Lord; the other goat is Azazel or the scapegoat. The goat designated for the Lord is killed, the blood collected in a bowl, and the High Priest takes the blood into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle some on the mercy seat to make atonement for the sins of the people. (third trip)
    - 8) He then goes outside, lays his hands on the scapegoat to symbolically transfer the people's guilt to the goat. The goat is then led out to the wilderness, released in hopes that it never returns.
    - 9) He then goes back into the Holy of Holies one last time to retrieve the golden censer. (fourth trip)

**C. Significance: What is the Holy Spirit teaching us?**

- Hebrews 9:8-10-- *“The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.”*
1. **Worship of God was limited under the Old Covenant.**
    - a. There was not access to God for the common man.
    - b. We need a perfect priest, a perfect sacrifice, and a perfect covenant to gain access to God’s presence.
    - c. The way to the heavenly Holy Place could not be opened while the first Tabernacle was standing.
  2. **The cleansing accomplished through the old sacrifices was imperfect.**
    - a. The ceremonies and rituals could not cleanse the conscience,
    - b. The cleansings were entirely external, consequently a person could never have a clear conscience, a deep abiding sense of being forgiven.
  3. **The Old Covenant is temporary.**
    - a. The system was never intended to last forever.
    - b. It was to last until the “time of reformation”, that is, the time when God will set everything right.
    - c. Only in the New Covenant with Christ is everything set right between God and man.