Wednesday Morning Senior Adults Bible Study
THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
September 2, 2026

HEBREWS 9

Review

The high priesthood of Jesus:

7:5-14 — The priests of Israel always came from the tribe of _____ and the family of _____. But Jesus came from the tribe of _____!

7:17 — Jesus is a priest in the order of _____.

8:1-2 — We have a high priest who sat down at the _____ of the throne of the Majesty in heaven!

8:6 — The ministry of Jesus is greater than the ministry of Israel's priests because the new covenant is better than the old; and the new covenant is greater because it is established on better _____.

8:9 — What was the problem with the first covenant, so that it had to be replaced?

8:13 — The first covenant is now obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon _____.

9:1-10 — The Most Holy Place

9:7 — How often did the high priest enter the inner room (the Most Holy Place)?

9:7 — When the high priest entered the inner room, what was he required to bring with him? _____

Background…

In the Bible, a "tabernacle" is a portable dwelling—basically a tent. But the tabernacle was God's tent, his dwelling place on earth before the temple was built. The tabernacle's Most Holy Place was God's private throne room. Only the high priest could enter, only on the annual Day of Atonement, and only for the purpose of offering specific sacrifices on that day. This room was separated from the rest of the tabernacle by a curtain.

- Read about the tabernacle and the Most Holy Place in **Exodus 40:17-38** and **Leviticus 16:1-17.**

9:8-9 — The writer emphasizes that the regulations given to Israel for worship at the tabernacle in the time of Moses were only "a copy and shadow" of what is in heaven (8:5). Here, he explains that the prohibition against entering the Most Holy Place (with exception for the high priest once a year) was the Holy Spirit's way of showing that the way into the real Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed. He also states that the gifts and sacrifices being offered at the tabernacle were not able to _____ of the worshiper, but were only external regulations in force until the new order was established.

9:11-28

What did Christ, our high priest, do to obtain eternal redemption for us?

- 9:11, He went through the greater and more perfect _____ that is not a part of this creation.
- 9:12, He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by _____ _____ blood.
- 9:14, He offered himself _____ to God.

9:14 — What benefit does the blood of Christ offer us?

9:15 — Christ is the mediator of a new _____.

• The promise of this covenant is an eternal _____.

• Christ died as a _____ to set free those who sinned under the first covenant.

9:16-18 — A will/covenant (same word in Greek) is put into effect only when someone has _____; for this reason, even the first covenant was not put into effect without _____.

Background: Ratification of a Covenant

"In the Old Testament, ratification of a covenant based on sacrifice frequently called for a procedure which clarifies the detail of verses 16-17. The ratifying party invoked a curse upon himself when he swore to comply with the terms of the covenant. In the transaction the ratifying party was represented by animals designated for sacrifice. The animals would be cut in two, literally. Then the ratifier would walk between the separated parts of the sacrifice, invoking upon himself a curse if he should fail to be faithful. The bloody dismemberment of representative animals signified the violent death of the ratifying party should he prove faithless to his oath." *— William L. Lane, Hebrews: A Call to Commitment (Regent College, 2004 edition), 124-125*

• As an example of this custom in the Old Testament, see Genesis 15:7-21 and Jeremiah 34:8-22 (notice verses 18-20).

9:22 — The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with _____, and without the shedding of _____ there is no _____.

Background: Cleansing with the Blood of a Sacrifice

As the writer of Hebrews reminds us (9:18-21), blood was used to seal God's covenant with Israel (the "first covenant"). At Mt. Sinai in the time of Moses, after God spoke the Ten Commandments to Israel and gave them the basics of his law, the Israelites agreed to abide by God's covenant with them. Moses sealed this agreement with the blood of young bulls, and then he went up onto Mt. Sinai to receive the rest of God's commands for Israel, including the tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments. **Read this story in Exodus 24.**

9:24 — Christ entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's _____.
9:26 — Christ appeared once for all to do away with _____ by the sacrifice of _____.
9:27-28 — Just as people are destined to _____ once, and after that to face _____, so Christ was _____ once to take away the sins of many.
9:28 — Christ will appear a _____ time, not to bear _____, but to bring _____ to those who are waiting for him.

Questions for Reflection

- According to Hebrews 9:16-28, why did Jesus have to die?
- How is Jesus' sacrifice better than the sacrifices offered by the priests of Israel?
- How is the sanctuary Jesus entered greater than the sanctuary on earth?