

Hebrews 9:6-14

Hebrews 9:6 (NOTES)

- "these things have been so prepared" - That is the implements of worship: altar, laver, lampstand, table of showbread, altar of incense, ark of the covenant.
- "priests are continually entering" - Priests are continually doing the work of interceding for man with God, presenting our sacrifices to God, etc. Jesus is now doing the same for us in heaven, where the reality of what these implements of worship symbolize actually are. Hebrews 7:25, 8:4-5, 10:1, Colossians 2:16-17
- "entering the outer tabernacle" - Priests are entering the Holy Place, not the Holy of Holies.
- "performing the divine worship" - Replacing the showbread each week, lighting the lampstand and replacing wicks, replacing and relighting the incense, sprinkling them with blood for cleansing, etc.

Hebrews 9:7 (NOTES)

- "into the second" - The Holy of Holies with the ark of the covenant.
- "only the high priest *enters* once a year" - On the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). No other priests were allowed on pain of death. Ordinary people had no access to either the Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. A priest was required to represent man before God. Today, we have a High Priest who has opened the veil for us to enter into God's presence. We are accompanied, as it were, by Christ and are not alone
- "not without *taking* blood, which he offers for himself" - To enter without the blood of the sacrifice to cover his own sin, the priest would die.
- "he offers for himself and for the sins of the people" - The High Priest was himself unclean, as was any person, and had to be made ceremonially clean before he could offer sacrifice for the sins of the people.
- "committed in ignorance" - The people have already been making offerings for themselves throughout the year for sins they have committed. They would bring in the appropriate offerings for their specific sins, the priests would accept and slaughter the animals (or accept the grain or other offering), and burn them on the altar of burnt offering. Yom Kippur covered sins about which the people were unaware.

Hebrews 9:8 (NOTES)

- "Holy Spirit *is* signifying this" - The Holy Spirit is illuminating the writer to understand this revelation.
- "the way into the holy place" -The holy place here is heaven itself, which cannot be entered through Christ while the tabernacle (temple) is still in use.
- "disclosed" - Means revealed.
- "outer tabernacle" - In this context, it refers to the visible tabernacle: outer court, Holy Place, and Holy of Holies.

Hebrews 9:9 (NOTES)

- "which *is* a symbol for the present time" - The tabernacle, as we have seen already, symbolizes heaven, God's throne chamber. Isaiah 6:1-7, Revelation 4, Ezekiel 10
- "gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience" - Since the tabernacle only represents God's throne room symbolically, then the divine worship performed in the tabernacle, including the sacrifices, is only symbolic. It is effective, but only temporarily, until the fulfillment of what the tabernacle symbolizes is realized.
- "perfect in conscience" - The tabernacle worship had to be performed continually because it was an outward religious system and did not impact man spiritually in his inner being. It made people ceremonially clean on the outside, but not morally pure on the inside. There was no change of character, as in the case of born-again believers, who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Jeremiah 31:33, Titus 3:4-5, 2Corinthians 5:17

Hebrews 9:10 (NOTES)

- "food and drink and various washings, regulations" - These were the dietary laws, laws regarding uncleanness, etc., which were designed to show man his sin, uncleanness, and need for cleansing.
- "regulations for the body" - But not for the spirit. These were about the outward physical body (food, washings, etc.), not the inner spiritual being (regeneration, new creature, new nature, etc.).

- "time of reformation" - What is this *time of reformation*? The advent of Christ - His perfect life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Once these were completed, the temple in Israel became obsolete and was destroyed (Titus Vespasian 70 A.D.).

Hebrews 9:11 (NOTES)

- "greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands ... not of this creation" - Heaven's "holy place," God's throne chamber.

Hebrews 9:12 (NOTES)

- "through His own blood, He entered the holy place" - His blood was shed, which gave Him the right and authority (currency) to enter in on our behalf to God's throne, not it's temporal precursor, the Ark of the Covenant.
- "once for all" - No more year after year sacrificial system. Christ does not have to be sacrificed over and over, just the one time because His sacrifice was perfect. The sacrifices of the tabernacle were imperfect as part of the fallen world.
- "having obtained eternal redemption" - Versus temporal coverage of sin. The blood of bulls and goats only covered sin for the moment. Christ actually redeemed us, which permanently removed sin from us. The old system covered it up, the new system removed it entirely. Anecdotally, think of perfume versus steam cleaning.

Hebrews 9:13 (NOTES)

- I received the following question from Robert Posey: "Can you comment on the ordinance of the Red Heifer in Numbers 19? I was asked for my perception from a former Pastor this morning. I was not aware, but some devout Jews have been trying for decades to produce an acceptable bovine ... I would like to know more." Numbers 19:1-3, 9, Hebrews 9:13-14, 13:12-13
- "the ashes of a heifer" - These were mixed with pure water and preserved to be available for those who had touched a dead human body, and by doing so, had become legally unclean. The unclean could not participate in the divine worship.
- The red heifer (cow, not bull) - is a type of Christ. It is the color of blood. Jesus came to shed His blood. He will return to shed the blood of His enemies. Revelation 19:13-15, Isaiah 63:23

- Return of the red heifer - UK The Sun newspaper article 10-Sep-2018.
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7217719/bible-prophecy-apocalypse-firs-red-heifer-born-israel/>

- "cleansing of the flesh" - Outward ritual cleansing.

Hebrews 9:14 (NOTES)

- "the blood of Christ" - The substance of that which was foreshadowed by *the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer*.
- "through the eternal Spirit" - By the power of the Holy Spirit.
- "offered Himself without blemish to God" - Unlike the goats and bulls used in the sacrificial system under the Old Covenant, Jesus was THE perfect sacrifice. Everything in the world, including the animal kingdom, exists in imperfection today. At the Fall of Man, the world became corrupt. Even though the Law required "unblemished" animals to be used as sacrifices, "unblemished" only referred to the outer visible blemishes one might detect with the naked eye. Beneath the skin, no living thing is perfect in all ways, even if it might appear so outwardly. Yet, God accepted such offerings symbolically until the "time of reformation" when Christ appeared on the scene in 29 AD. Since Jesus was not born of the seed of man, He was not corrupted. Rather, He was born of the Holy Spirit and became the perfect God-Man: 100%, who pre-existed the creation and performed the very act of its creation, and 100% man, with the body God the Father gave Him. Hebrews 10:5
- "cleanse your conscience from dead works" - Our conscience is our knowledge of the truth. Our dead works are those which condemn us. When we are converted, our sins are forgiven, and our consciences are purified. We no longer see ourselves guilty before God. A great burden is lifted. Jews under the Old Covenant carried their guilt with them and were reminded of it regularly. Thus, they had to continually offer sacrifices for sins. We trust in Christ once and for time all. Hebrews 10:3-4
- "to serve the living God?" - Not only are we saved from something (the wrath of God), but we are also saved to something (the service of God). We are not converted and then free to wander off somewhere to seek the meaning of life. Having been adopted in God's family, we now seek to please our Father in heaven by obeying and worshipping Him. As we deny ourselves and seek His will, pleasure, and glory, we are serving Him. Romans 12:1-2