

Discussion Questions for Hebrews 9 :1-15

Read through **verses 1-15**

Tabernacle (9:2). The Hebrew counterpart of this Greek word means “dwelling place.” After God delivered Israel from Egypt, He commanded the people to build a royal tent to be His dwelling place in their midst and the focus of their worship. God minutely specified the details of the tent’s/tabernacle’s construction (see Exodus 26:1–37). Centuries later, when the Israelites were settled in the Promised Land, God allowed them to build a permanent temple on the pattern of the moveable tabernacle.

Both the temple and the tabernacle had two rooms, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

- The instructions for building the Tabernacle were precise (see Exodus 36:8–38)? Why do you think God deemed this necessary?
- Why do you think God gave the earthly tabernacle and sacrificial system as an illustration or parable of Christ’s once-for-all heavenly work?
- From the **first 5 verses** of this chapter what is your impression of the old covenant “regulations for worship”? (What sense do you get of God? How complicated does the system seem?)
- The Old Covenant dealt with external regulations. How is the New Covenant different? (See Jeremiah 31:33)
- Read **Leviticus 16:1–17**. What do you learn about access to the Most Holy Place under the Old Covenant? What do you think God was wanting to teach Israel?
- Read **Hebrews 4:16**. What do we learn about access to the throne of God under the New Covenant?
- Why do you think the high priest was required to bring a blood sacrifice when entering the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement (see 9:7)?
- How did Jesus open the way into the Most Holy Place in heaven (see 10:19–20)?
- Read **Matthew 27:50–51**. How do the events of this passage illustrate Jesus opening the way to heaven for believers?
- Why weren’t the sacrifices of the old covenant “able to clear the conscience of the worshiper” (9:9)? (**Answer:** Sin had not been punished)
- Read **1 John 4:18**. Why do you think so many Christians fear punishment from God?
- Should believers be afraid of being punished for their sin? What does **Jeremiah 31:34** say about how God deals with our sin under the New Covenant?

Prayer. Thank God for the terms of the New and better covenant. Go around the ground and encourage each person to personally thank the Lord for the blessings that are connected to the way God now deals with our sin.