Lesson 13 – Hebrews 9:1-14 Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant, Part 1)
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 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. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

(6) These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, 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 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

(11) But when Christ appears 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), 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. 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, 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.

<u>Think on these things:</u>

1) The tabernacle "tent" was put together by Moses according to the plans given him by God. It was essentially a long rectangular box (15'x45') divided into two rooms, 1/3rd (15'x15') and 2/3rds (15'x30') in size. Under King Solomon it was given permanence in the stone Temple, and then again when the destroyed Temple was rebuilt under King Herod (Jesus' era). The larger 2/3rds part of the room was called the "Holy Place." The smaller 1/3rd part at the back end was called the "Holy of Holies."

   What was kept in the Holy Place (vs. 1-2)? _____

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   What was kept in the Holy of Holies (vs.3-5)? _____

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   What restrictions were imposed on priestly service within the tabernacle? _____

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NOTE: To learn more about the Golden Urn of Manna, see Exodus 16:31-36. For Aaron's Budded Staff, scan Numbers 16-17, the story of Korah's rebellion and the people challenging Moses & Aaron as God's chosen leaders. The 10 Commandments tablets can be found in Exodus 32:1, 15-20 and 34:1-4, 29-35.

2) Which of these items would you like to see, and why? _____

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3) V.5 speaks of the gold-covered chest with "cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat." What are cherubim? See Genesis 3:24. (For another classification of these creatures, see Isaiah 6.)

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4) Also read Exodus 25:18-22. This Mercy Seat was a meeting place between who and who? We learn that the Mercy Seat is a feature of the "Ark of the Covenant," this gold-covered chest that holds the manna, Aaron's budded staff, and 10 Commandment tablets. Some churches adopt the term "mercy seat" or altar, as a place to pray after receiving a worship service message. The key concept here is that God is the provider of mercy to the genuinely repentant heart.

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5) Everything about the tent/tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant is symbolic, an earthly reproduction of what actually goes on in heaven. From v.9, what is the shortcoming of this sacrificial reproduction?

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6) What did Jesus do that the Jewish High Priests could never do? What did He secure for us (v.12)? For how long does Jesus' redemption of believer's lives last?

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7) Notice the "trinity" of God in v.14a --- Christ the Son, the Eternal Spirit, and God (the Father). What does Jesus purify for us, and from? Why (v.14b)?

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: