

DISCUSSION IDEAS BY A SINGLE OFFERING

Hebrews 9:1-10:18

May 18th, 2015

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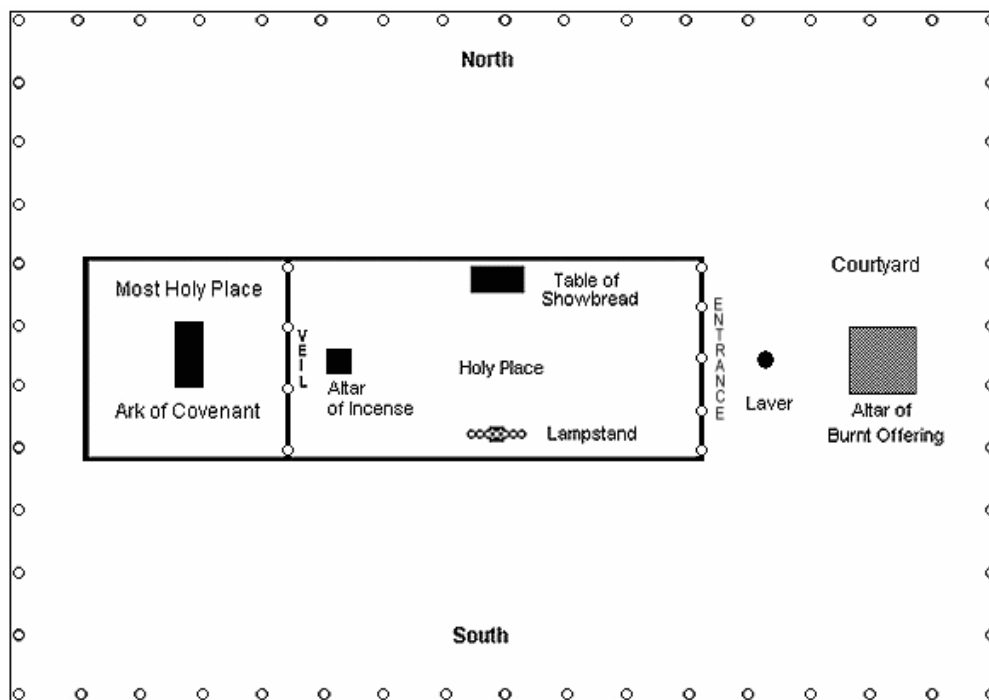
So you call yourself a "Christian". What do you mean by that? How do you define what it means to be a Christian?

Let's look at that another way: What is God's intention for you?

God LET you sin! He let you make that choice, and that choice excludes you from a relationship with Him.

So what was His solution?

◆ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THE JEWISH TABERNACLE AND SACRIFICES.



What does the layout of this Tabernacle (tent) make clear about trying to approach God? ¹

Common people could not enter the Tabernacle court.
Levites could not enter the Holy Place.
Common priests could not enter the Most Holy Place.
Access to God was limited to the High Priest once a year and that not without blood.

Blood. What does Hebrews 9:22 (and Leviticus 17:11) say about the shedding of blood? What does that have to do with isolation from God?

¹ See the last page for a discussion about Heb. 9:4 and the location of the Altar of Incense.

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Read Heb. 9:1-10.

What was the purpose of Jewish sacrifices? Compare Heb. 10:1-4.

Why could these NOT atone for actual sins? What does verse 9 say?

In verse 10, what limitation did God put on these ceremonies?

What was the "time of reformation"? Look also at Heb. 7:12.

- ◆ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: THE ONE COMPLETE, EFFECTIVE SACRIFICE.**
As you read Heb. 9:11-14, note the details about Jesus' sacrifice and what it is that makes His sacrifice truly effective.

How does Jesus' sacrifice change our isolation from God?

What, in us, has His blood purified?

Read Heb. 9:15-22.

What two benefits are stated in verse 15?

How does the idea of being included in a will and receiving an inheritance apply to you?

- ◆ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE FUTURE.**

Read Heb. 9:23-28.

What is the significance of verse 27?

What promise is given in verse 28?

Where will you and I be at the time of Jesus' second return? Look at Revelation 19:11-14.

What followers of Jesus will be on Earth at that time? Consider Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:26.

If Jesus' return is not for saving them from sin (v.28), what is it for?

- ◆ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED AND BEING SANCTIFIED?**

The word "justified" is related to the idea of being declared innocent or without guilt.

How does Jesus sacrifice relate to that idea?

The word "sanctified" comes from a word meaning to "set apart" or to "dedicate to". It is actually from the same root word as "holy".

How does that relate to God's work in us?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FIVE: "ONCE FOR ALL"**

Look up the following verses, noting what is said about the term "once" or "once for all".

Heb. 7:27

Heb 9:12

Heb 9:26

Heb 9:28

Heb 10:2

Heb 10:10

What point is God emphasizing by this repetition?

Compare this to Heb. 10:11-14.

Think about the fact that Jesus sat down. What does that indicate?

Relate this to Heb. 10:15-18.

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IS THERE AN ERROR IN VERSE 4?

Some skeptics may try to use Heb. 9:3-4 to say that the Bible contains an error. The Altar of Incense was actually outside the Holies of Holies, but verse 4 sounds like it was inside.

Well, that is an example of the problems of translating between languages.

In this case the original information was in Hebrew. That was translated into Greek for the writer of Hebrews, and then into English for you to read.

Verse 4 does not actually (incorrectly) state that the altar was inside the Holy of Holies.

The words "having" or "which had" are an attempt to convey the meaning of a Greek word meaning "to possess". The Altar of Incense was a required item for the High Priest's once-a-year entrance into the Holy of Holies.

The Holy of Holies, which was behind the curtain, had an Altar of Incense. It is just that this altar was in front of the curtain, outside the inner chamber, so that it could be serviced daily.