

Background Information

The first (Mosaic) covenant included an earthly sanctuary, the tabernacle, in which divine service was offered. The word service means “worship”, with sacrifice being the form of worship denoted clearly in Rom.12:1.

As long as the Tabernacle stood it represented the way to God through fleshly rules and regulations. The High Priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year to approach God for his own sins and the sins of the people. The pot of manna reminded the people of God’s miraculous provision for them in the wilderness. Aaron’s rod was a sign of the authority of the priesthood. All stood as a temporary restricted access meant to disclose that a true entrance into God’s presence had not been disclosed. It was intended to show Israel that the true way to God did not lie in them, as it was imperfect in its ability to affect the conscience of the worshiper. It was a shadow pointing the way to a new and better covenant and eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ.

LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: You may want to begin your reading with Ex. 25:8-40, Gal.3:24-25, Rev. 11:19

Hebrews 9:1-5

1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Digging Deeper



Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Hebrews 9:6-10

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. 7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; 8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience — 10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.



BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 9:1-5 _____

Hebrews 9:6-10 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 9:1-5 _____

Hebrews 9:6-10 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

FOR DISCUSSION:

What were the limitations of the first sanctuary? (v. 7-10)

What is the time of reformation?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 9:1-5 _____

Hebrews 9:6-10 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

Hebrews 10:1

Radiating His Truth . . .

In the earthly temple, the furnishings were only symbols, the work was never finished, and the ministry could never change the human heart. - Warren Wiersbe

