

“Access Granted”

Session 7 – Hebrews 9:1-28

Bible Study Method:

Cross Referencing for Tabernacle Overview



INTRO – 3min

Read It:

Today we are moving from the 'Contract' to the 'Construction.' We are going on a tour of the Old Testament Tabernacle. But this isn't just a history lesson; it's an architectural design lesson. We are going to look at how the very walls and curtains of the old system were a message from God saying, 'Stay Back.' Then, we will see how Jesus walked through those barriers to say, 'Come In.'

SECTION 1 – The Architecture of Separation

Hebrews 9:1-10 & Exodus 26:31-33

Read it:

- Hebrews 9:1-10
- Exodus 26:31-33

Questions:

- 1.** Look at the tabernacle diagram at the end of this guide. Notice the layers: The Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. In Exodus 26:33, God commands the veil to 'separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.' Based on Hebrews 9:8, what was the Holy Spirit trying to communicate to us through this physical barrier?
- 2.** In verse 10, the author calls the old rituals "external regulations" (food, drink, washings). Why is it easier for us to focus on external habits (like attending

church or following a moral checklist) than on the internal conscience issues mentioned in verse 9?

SECTION 2 – The Heavenly Reality

Hebrews 9:11-14

Read It:

- Hebrews 9:11-14

Questions:

- 1.** Verse 11 says Jesus entered a *"greater and more perfect tabernacle"* that wasn't made by human hands. God's presence is now in Jesus Himself, no longer tied to a physical building or a "holy place." How do you think this would have encouraged these overwhelmed and struggling Hebrews who were tempted to return to Judaism?
 - 2.** Verse 14 says the blood of Christ cleanses our consciences from "acts that lead to death" (dead works). What is the difference between "doing chores" to make God happy (dead works) and "serving the living God" because we are already loved?
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SECTION 3 – Reflection

Read It:

The old High Priest entered the Most Holy Place behind the curtain with a rope around his ankle in case he died and had to be pulled back out, but when Jesus breathed His last breath, Mark 15:38 says, "The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." Because of Jesus' sacrifice, you have been invited to enter that same 'space' with the confidence of a child running to the loving arms of a parent. Consider the layout of the tabernacle. Imagine yourself standing outside that thick curtain. Now, visualize the moment Jesus died and that curtain was torn from top to bottom. What is one "internal barrier" (a past shame or a current 'dead work') that makes you feel like the curtain is still closed?

Take a couple of minutes to reflect on this, to pray, and enter God's presence. Draw near to Him.

SECTION 4 – The Once for All

Hebrews 9:15-28

Read It:

- Hebrews 9:15-28

Questions:

- 1. Verses 15-17 say Jesus died so that we could receive a "promised eternal inheritance," but many of us live with a debtor's mindset—constantly feeling like we owe God more effort or better behavior just to stay in His good graces. How would your stress levels or your self-talk change this week if you truly believed you were an heir receiving a gift rather than a debtor trying to pay back a loan?**

Read It:

In session 6, we looked at the promise of the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31. In that promise God says, *"I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."* (Jer 31:34) Now, here in Hebrews 9:22 we read that *"without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*

- 2. When you compare the physical blood and high cost in Hebrews 9 with the promise in Jeremiah 31, why is it important to see that our forgiveness wasn't just a pardon—it was a payment? Does this make the "once for all" finality of verse 26 feel more secure?**
- 3. The High Priest had to return "year after year" (vs 25) because the job was never finished. However, verse 26 says that Jesus appeared "once for all." We often feel like we have to "re-earn" God's approval every time we fail. What habits do you find yourself performing "year after year" like the priests did? What ways do you try to prove yourself and how does Jesus' "once for all" sacrifice bring you comfort?**

DO IT: 5min

- **The "Curtain" Audit:** Whenever you feel a sense of distance from God this week, visualize the rectangular Tabernacle diagram. Consciously remind yourself that the

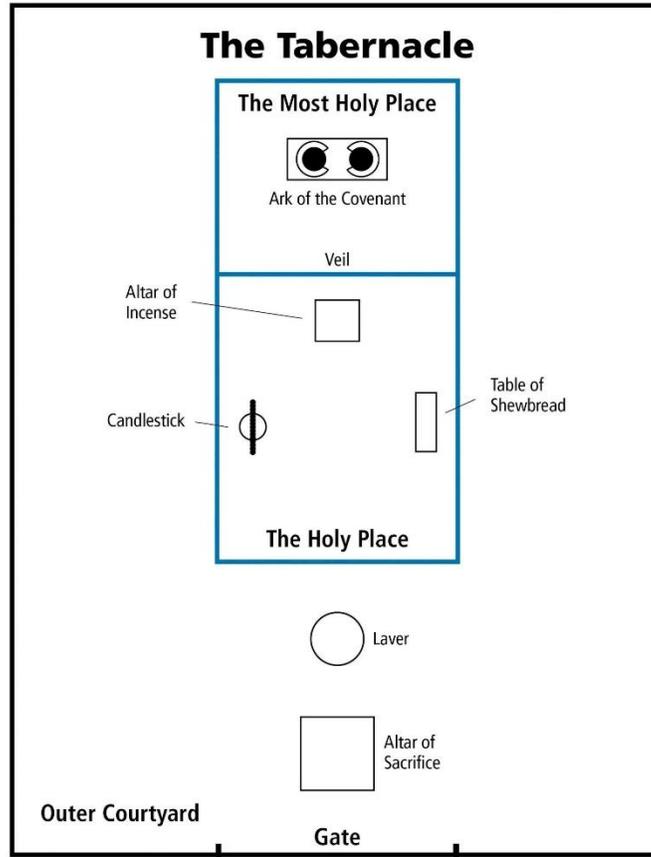
curtain has been torn and you are already standing in the Most Holy Place because of Jesus.

- **Stop the "Emotional Repayment":** If you fail or hit a spiritual "low," catch yourself if you start "punishing" yourself with guilt to pay for the mistake. Stop the cycle by speaking verse 26 aloud: *"He has appeared once for all... to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself"*.
- **Identify a "Dead Work":** Choose one religious activity you do out of duty or fear of losing God's approval (an "extra holy" habit). Try to perform that same action this week while explicitly thanking Jesus that you are already loved and accepted, moving from Identity over Performance.
- **The Inheritance Reminder:** Write the word "Heir" on a sticky note for your mirror or workspace. Every time you see it, take 30 seconds to shift your mindset from a debtor trying to pay God back to an heir simply resting in a gift that has been legally released to you.

PRAY IT: 2min

Prayer:

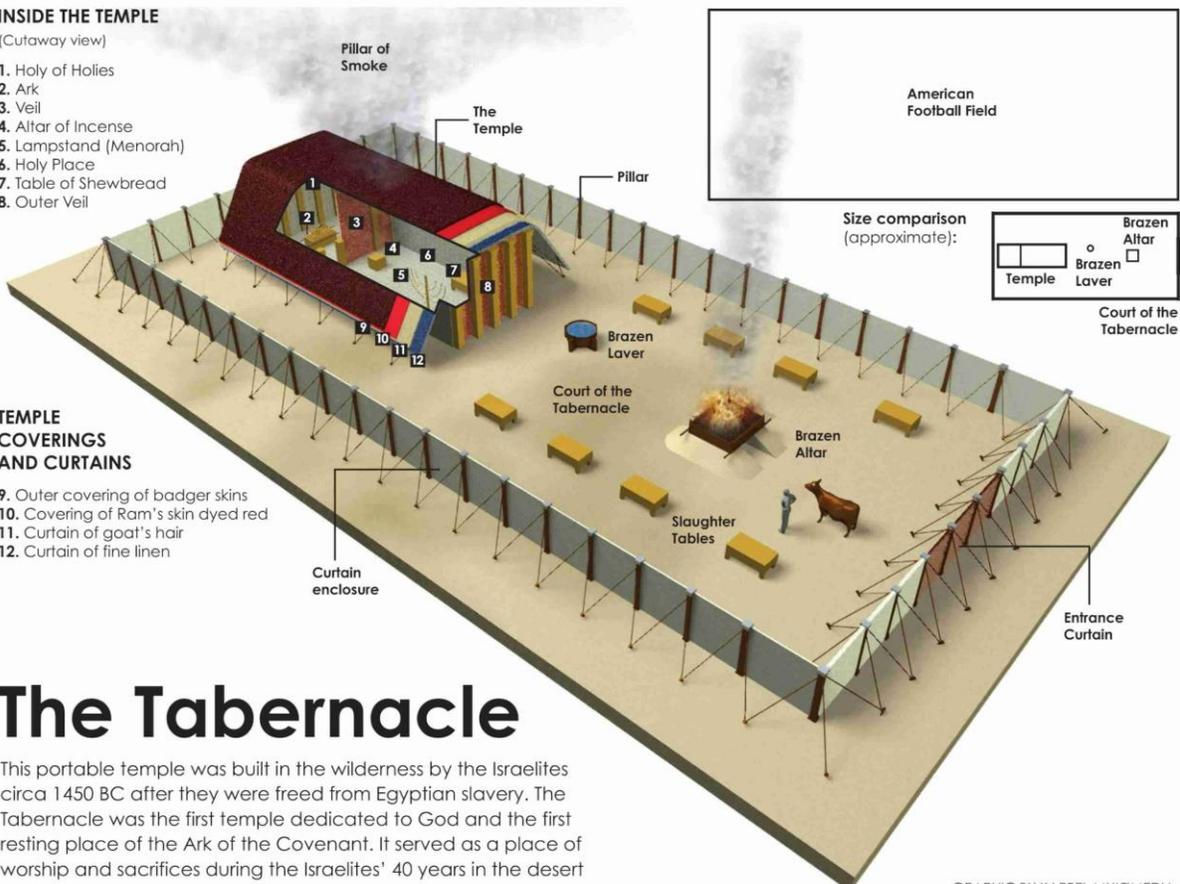
Lord Jesus, thank You for being our greater and more perfect tabernacle. We thank You that we no longer live in an architecture of separation, but in a relationship of constant access. Forgive us for the times we try to sew the curtain back together through our own dead works or guilt. Help us to walk this week not as debtors trying to pay an impossible price, but as heirs resting in Your finished, 'once for all' work. We stop auditioning today, and we start living in Your presence. Amen.



INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.