

Hebrews - Small Group Study

Week Eleven

Verses for the week: Hebrews Chapter 9:1-10

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now. When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

Questions:

1. Verses 1-10 describe the tabernacle of God (the “tent”) from the Old Testament.

Why did the tent have two (2) sections, as described in this passage?

2. What does verse 8 mean when it says, “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?”

Quote of the week: It always seems impossible until it's done. Nelson Mandela