



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Jesus & The Superior Sanctuary

SPEAKER DSP Edric Sng

THEME Hebrews (Hebrews 9)

DATE 07 & 08 Oct 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

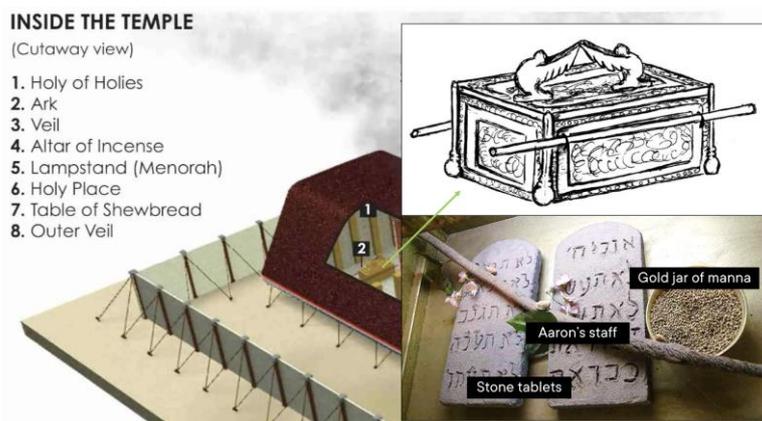
This weekend, the Jews celebrated Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. It marks the end of harvest, and is five days after the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). But how does this ancient tradition relate to us as modern day Christians, with Jesus in the picture? Hebrews 9 gives us a clear comparison between the earthly sanctuary created with the physical tabernacle, and the superior heavenly sanctuary we now have access to through Jesus Christ.

HEBREWS 9: SUCCOTH – FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Tabernacle means ‘tent’ (makeshift temple), an earthly sanctuary where the high priest would enter once a year to atone for the sins of the people. But this atonement was never permanent, and lasted for a short time, before man inevitably fell into sin again.

These are the items typically found within the earthly sanctuary.

The items actually point to various aspects of man’s relationship with God, namely our separation from God.



1. Altar of incense → Reminder of man’s limited access to God (Exo 30:6)
2. Jar of Manna → Reminder of man’s fallen flesh (Exo 16:32, John 6:49)
3. Aaron’s Staff → Reminder of man’s grumbling against God (Num 17:10)
4. Stone Tablets → Reminder of man’s rebellion against God (Deut 31:26-27)
5. Cherubim → Reminder of man’s limited communion with God (Exo 25:22)

On the other hand, Jesus is the perfect 'sacrifice', atoned for our sins. He was perfect from the beginning of time all the way till His death. His atonement was not one of the blood of animals, but by His own blood, that we may be saved.

Hebrews 9 clearly tells us of the superiority of Jesus, as compared to the earthly tabernacle:

Earthly Sanctuary	Heavenly Sanctuary
Human high priest (Heb 9:6)	Divine high priest (Heb 9:12)
Human-made tabernacle	Divine, perfect tabernacle (Heb 9:11)
No access to the Most Holy Place	Access to the Most Holy Place
Reminders of our separation (Heb 9:6-7)	Restored and redeemed (Heb 9:12)
Unclean despite many sacrifices (Heb 9-10)	Cleansed once and for all by the finished work of Christ's death and resurrection (Heb 9:13-14)

CONCLUSION

Under the Jewish laws and animal sacrifices, the sacrifices were imperfect. However, through Jesus Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection, we now have a perfect and holy sacrifice for the atonement of our sins, so that we may be fully certain of the salvation we have in Christ!

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a dispute with someone? What did you do to make up for it?

2. Why is Jesus Christ the perfect substitute for our sins, compared to animals?

3. In what ways can we live in response to God's grace and mercy?