



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

## Chapter 9

Bishop Youssef



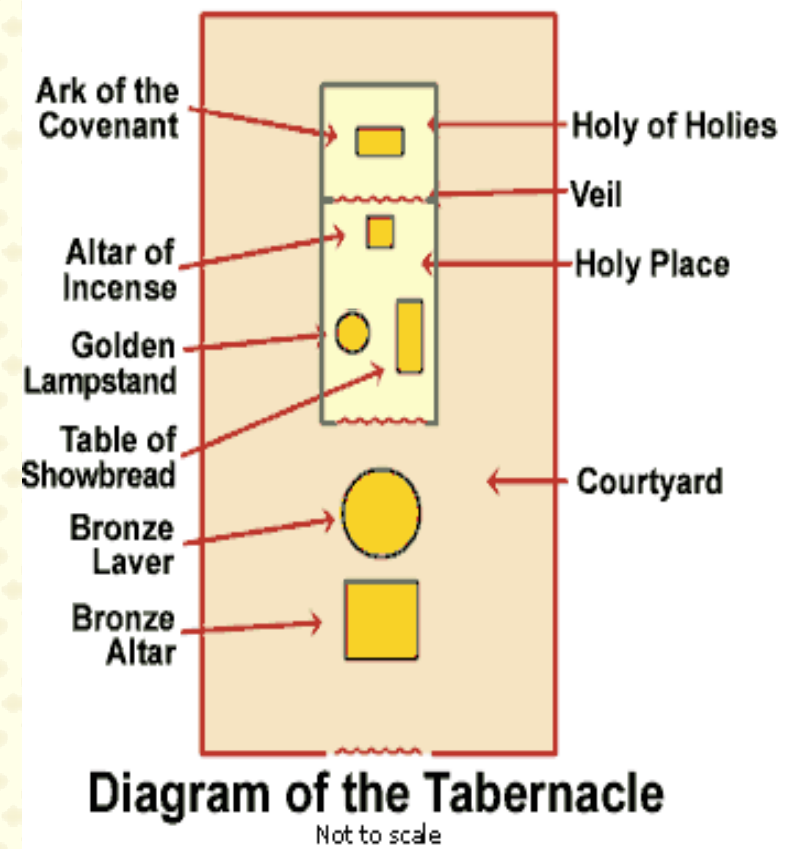
# Introduction

- To prove the excellence of the new covenant St. Paul compared the ways of worship in the new and old covenant
- Hebrews 9:1-10 discussed worship in the old covenant in which he emphasized the limited or restricted access to God
- Hebrews 9:10-28 explained that the superior new covenant provides superior access to God in worship



# The Tabernacle (9:1-5)

- The old covenant had ordinances and sanctuary (earthly)
- The description of the sanctuary
- Was the golden censor in the Holiest of All? (V. 4)





# The Tabernacle (9:1-5)

- He was referring to the high priest taking the censor with him on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:12,13)
- The Ark is a type of Christ
- The gold symbolizes His Divinity
- The Lampstand, the Manna Pot, Aaron's Rod and the Golden Censor are symbols of St. Mary



# The Tabernacle (9:1-5)

- Christ is the Light, the Bread of Life, the fruit that sprouted without seed of man, the Sweet Aroma
- Christ is the Logos (Word) of the Father (Tablets of Covenant)
- The Mercy Seat symbolized the Throne of God

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- The Holy Place was used on a daily basis by all the priests (Exodus 27:20-21 and 30:7-8) and (Leviticus 24:5-9)
- But the Holy of the Holies was only used by the High Priest once a year
- St. Paul explains the high priest's ministry on the Day of Atonement, (Leviticus 16) which includes:

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- Offering a bull for the high priest's sins
- Taking a censer full of coals and incense from the altar of incense into the Holy of Holies
- Sprinkling the bull's blood on the mercy seat of the ark
- Offering a goat for sin offering

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- Sprinkling the blood of the goat on the mercy seat for the sins of the people
- Making atonement for the altar with blood of the bull and the goat on the horns of the altar
- Sending a goat into the wilderness bearing the sins of the people (the scapegoat) which symbolizes the departure of sin from the camp of Israel

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- Offering burnt offerings for himself and for the people
- V. 7 explains that the atonement was made only for the sins committed in ignorance (Numbers 15:30-31)
- Apostasy is not a sin committed in ignorance

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- Shedding the Blood is essential for Atonement
- The restricted access to God:
  - ❖ Only the High Priest
  - ❖ Once a year
  - ❖ Not without blood
  - ❖ Has to be repeated every year

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- The Old Testament is inspired by the Holy Spirit and still God speaks to us through it (v. 8)
- As long as the first tabernacle (the Holy Place – the temple) is still standing, the way into the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies – the heavens) has not yet been revealed

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- The worship in the old covenant was also symbolic
- Such gifts and sacrifices cannot perfect the conscience of the worshipper
- The conscience remembers the sins that would separate the worshipper from God

# Worship in the Tabernacle (9:6-10)



- A sacrifice that had to be repeated could not purify the conscience
- This is external purification not internal (fleshly ordinances)
- The Day of Atonement arrangements provided only temporary help
- These arrangements were only temporary until the time of reformation would come

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Priesthood	Restricted Access	Good things to come: Access to God
Sanctuary	Man-made, earthly temple	Greater and perfect sanctuary in heaven, God's own presence
Sacrifices	The blood of goats and calves	Christ's own blood
Frequency	Every year	Once for all
Forgiveness	Temporary forgiveness	Eternal redemption

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



- Jesus is a better priest, had a better ministry, served in a better sanctuary, and offered a better sacrifice
- Redemption means to set a slave free for a ransom (purchase price)
- Our freedom from sin was bought by the blood of Christ

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



- Christ does not only atone for our sins but also by the shedding of His own blood purchased freedom for all those who will follow Him
- V. 13 refers to the ritual of the red heifer (Numbers 19)
- A red heifer without defect or blemish that had never been under yoke was to be slaughtered outside the camp and the carcass was completely burned with cedar wood, hyssop, and red thread

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



- The ashes were to be gathered and stored to be combined with water for use in ceremonies of purification
- Anyone who became defiled by contact with a dead body were to be purified by sprinkling with the water mixed with the ashes of the red heifer
- The red heifer ashes for purification fit the thought of purification that is being emphasized here

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



- The Levitical system purified the flesh; the sacrifice of Christ will purify our conscience
- The Levitical system purified defilement that was contracted passively - simply by coming into contact with that which is impure
- The blood of Christ purifies our conscience from dead works - the active violation of the will of God

# Entered by His Own Blood (9:11-14)



- The sacrifices of the old covenant ended the defilement so that the Israelite could resume contact with his people
- The sacrifice of Christ provides the degree of purification that allows the believer to worship the living God
- Atonement – Redemption – Sanctification
- The offering of Christ was a voluntary sacrifice (eternal Spirit)

# Mediator of a New Covenant (9:15-28)



- Christ is a Mediator of a New Covenant
- The result is that the participants (those who are called) may actually enjoy the benefits (the promised eternal inheritance)
- This takes place because a death that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant, has occurred
- The penalty for transgressing the old covenant was death

# Mediator of a New Covenant (9:15-28)



- According to Genesis 15 the death of the animal cut into two for the covenant is necessary for the covenant to go into effect
- Christ's death was necessary to institute the new covenant
- In the Old Covenant, the scroll, the people, the tabernacle, and the vessels were sprinkled by the Blood

# Mediator of a New Covenant (9:15-28)



- Blood stands for life
- The forgiveness of sins costs life itself
- God gave the life of His own son to show us the depth of His love when He forgives our sins
- Verses 23-26 returns to the themes develop in Hebrews 9:1-14

# The Mediator of a New Covenant (9:15-28)



- Jesus has entered the heavenly sanctuary
- His death is a once for all atoning sacrifice for our sin
- As it is appointed for men to die once and then the judgment, so Christ died once to carry our judgment in His body and to grant salvation in His second coming for those who eagerly wait for Him
- Apart from sin: not to be a sin offering



# Conclusion

- What are the three main effects of the Lord's sacrifice? Explain the difference.
- In what way does Christ's sacrifice of Himself cleanse the conscience in a way that the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant could not?
- What is required for forgiveness to be granted?
- Read Hebrews 9:15 and 1 Timothy 2:5. In what sense does Jesus serve as a mediator?
- How did the purpose of Christ's First Coming differ from his Second Coming?