

## Hebrews 9, Bible Devotions

### ☐ Monday - Christ, Our Sacrifice.

Hebrews 9

Upon the bronze altar in the outer courtyard the Levitical sacrifices were offered (Lev. 1-5), all pointing to Christ. Jesus is our burnt offering (Eph. 5:2; 1 Pet. 1:18-19), peace offering (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14), sin offering (Isa. 53:6-8), and guilt offering (Isa. 53:10-11).

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21

### ☐ Tuesday - The Table of Showbread.

Hebrews 9:2, 4

In the Jewish tabernacle, in the Holy Place, stood the table of showbread, containing twelve loaves of bread (Heb. 9:2). This table served as a certain reminder to the Old Covenant people of God that Jehovah Jireh provides for His people. Under the New Covenant, the communion table is our table of showbread. But the bread is broken, reminding us that we have communion with God through the broken body of Jesus Christ. And it is eaten, reminding us that Christ sustains us physically and spiritually. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (Jn. 6:35), "the true bread" (Jn. 6:32). But there was another reminder in the Jewish tabernacle, in the Holy of Holies, inside the ark of the covenant. There, a single jar of manna reminded Israel that God had sustained His people in the wilderness (Heb. 9:4). Christ is our manna from heaven, who sustains us through the wilderness of this fallen world. Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven, if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever" (Jn. 6:51). Christ is our daily bread. "O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! (Psa. 34:8).

Read John 6:31-51

### ☐ Wednesday - The Golden Altar, Prayer Like Incense.

Hebrews 9:4

In the Jewish tabernacle, in the Holy Place, up against the veil leading into the Holy of Holies, stood the golden altar (Heb. 9:4). But unlike the bronze altar in the outer courtyard, no animal sacrifices were burned on the golden altar, only incense (Ex. 30:8-9). The incense rising from the golden altar was a symbol of the prayers of God's people rising before His throne (Psa. 141:1-2; Lk. 1:10; Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4). But in Revelation 8:3 we read that the prayers of the saints are mixed with "much" other incense. This other incense is the prayer of Christ, for "He always lives to make intercession" for His people.

Read Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34

### ☐ Thursday - The Torn Veil, Our Only Access to God.

Hebrews 9:3

The veil in the Jewish tabernacle was the only door into the Holy of Holies and into the visible presence of God. But cherubim, embroidered on the veil, were a picture of those angels who barred the way at the entrance of the Garden of Eden after the Fall, because the man and the woman had sinned (Gen. 3:24). Christ is the veil between God and man. He is the door (Jn. 10:7), the only way to God (Jn. 14:6), the only bridge to life (1 Tim. 2:5). But when Christ died on the cross, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom (Mt. 27:51); that is, it was torn by God. We enter into the presence of God through the torn veil, which is the torn (crucified) body of Christ.

Read Hebrews 10:19-20

### ☐ Friday - The Ark of the Covenant, a Throne.

Hebrews 9:2

The ark of the covenant was a mysterious golden box constructed by the Jews under God's direction (Ex. 25:10-22), carried on poles by the priests (Deut 10:8), and housed in the Holy of Holies, where only the high priest could go once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). In the ark was a golden jar of manna, Aaron's rod which budded, and the two stone tablets of the Law (Heb. 9:2). The lid of the ark was called the "mercy seat" and it was a picture of Christ's throne. When Christ entered into the true tabernacle, that is heaven itself (Heb. 9:11, 24), having made atonement for sin, He sat down (Heb. 1:3, 10:12, 12:2), upon a "throne of grace," i.e. the true mercy seat in heaven of which the ark was only a symbol.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16