

Hebrews 9:11-28 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - The True Tabernacle in Heaven.

Hebrews 9:11, 24

“Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24). There is a true tabernacle in heaven (Heb. 8:2) of which the earthly tabernacle was but a picture and foreshadow (Heb. 8:5). For “when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation” (Heb. 9:11). “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession” (Heb. 4:14).

Read Hebrew 7:25-26, 8:1

☐ Tuesday- The Mercy Seat & Our Propitiation.

Hebrews 9:5

The Ark of the Covenant which was located in the Jewish tabernacle in the Holy of holies, had a lid that was called the “mercy seat” (Ex. 25:17-22, cf. Heb. 9:5). The Greek word translated “mercy seat” is the same word that is elsewhere translated “propitiation” which means *satisfaction*. Propitiation is the satisfaction of God’s perfect standard of justice and righteousness by Jesus Christ’s substitutionary atonement on the cross for your sins, Christian. As a result, God’s wrath, which once loomed over you like a dark cloud (Rom. 1:18), has been satisfied and the result is peace with God (Rom. 5:1, 9). Read Romans 3:23-26, Hebrews 2:17

☐ Wednesday - Propitiation for the Whole World?

1 John 2:1-2

As discussed yesterday, “propitiation” refers to the *satisfaction* of God’s perfect standard of justice and righteousness by Jesus Christ’s substitutionary atonement of and payment for every one of the sins of His people. Concerning this, the apostle John writes, “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2). But is John saying here that Jesus Christ has atoned for the sins of everyone everywhere, providing universal salvation of everyone throughout all of history, without exception? Not at all. That is not what the Bible teaches (e.g. Matt. 7:13-14, 13:36-43, 25:41). Rather John is teaching the propitiation for the sins of all of those throughout the whole world *who believe in Jesus Christ*, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue.

Read 1 John 2:1-2

☐ Thursday - A Pleasing Aroma to God.

Ephesians 5:2

As recorded in Leviticus and Numbers, the smoke from the sacrificial animals burned on the bronze altar in the Jewish tabernacle, was said to be “a *soothing aroma* to the Lord” (23x); that is, a satisfying (propitiating) aroma. This is the language used of Christ’s sacrifice, who “gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a *fragrant aroma*” (Eph. 5:2). Jesus Christ hung on a cross, suspended between heaven and earth, as the propitiation for the sins of His people. And by His resurrection He rose as a soothing aroma to the Lord.

Read Isaiah 53:10-11

☐ Friday - Great High Priest & Greater Tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:11

In Hebrews, Jesus is called a “*great* High priest” (4:14, 10:21), who ministers in a “*greater* more perfect tabernacle” (9:11), with “*better* sacrifices” (9:23), and “the guarantee of a *better* covenant” (7:22), “which has been enacted on *better* promises” (8:6). “How will we escape if we neglect so *great* a salvation” (2:3)? “Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a *great* reward” (10:35). Read the verses cited above