

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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November 8 – Hebrews 9:1-10

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶ Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. ⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience ¹⁰ concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

The old covenant temple represents the relationship that Israel had with God. The temple was symbolic and the Lord was teaching his people that he was holy and to approach him they would need to be forgiven and cleansed of their sins. Remember there was a veil of separation between the holy place and the holy of holy's. This is why the High Priest went into the holy of holy's once a year with the blood of a sacrifice to put upon the mercy seat to provide atonement and forgiveness for his own sins and the sins of the nation of Israel.

However the Bible teaches us in these Scriptures that the conscience of all the worshipers could not be cleansed of their guilt because they were only dealing with the offenses they committed breaking the outward Mosaic law that had been given to them as a nation to obey. It was a continual reminder that sin separates people from a holy God. The good news is that Jesus Christ offered himself as a perfect sacrifice to open the way for all worshipers to be forgiven, cleansed, born again and receive eternal redemption with the ability to enter the holy presence of God by faith. As we will learn through the study of the book of Hebrews this entire legalistic Old Testament system of approaching God has been abolished and replaced by a new and living way for us to enter the presence of God whenever we choose by faith in Jesus Christ and his blood alone. This is why the apostle Paul concludes this portion of his letter by saying that all of the Old Covenant regulations of the temple we're only in effect until the time of reformation, and that time of change began when Jesus hung on the cross and declared; "It is finished!"

The Bible records that the veil of the temple was ripped in two pieces from top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross. Mark 15:37-39 says; “And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” Many Bible scholars estimate that this veil that separated the holy place from the holy of holies was 30 feet high X 30 feet wide X 4 inches thick and so strong that a pair of horses would not be able to tear it apart because it was weaved together so tightly.

Notice that Mark says it was torn from top to bottom. It’s as if God reached down from Heaven and ripped this veil of separation apart with his mighty hands. Why? Because God was dramatically declaring, you no longer can access my holy presence in this way. No, now there is a new and living way that all believers can enter, not through an earthly high priest but through faith in the blood of Jesus which we will study in the following podcasts and the dynamic relationship that God has made available for us to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

WHAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) The Old Covenant temple was only a symbolic training ground to teach us about the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man.
- 2) The Old Covenant temple also taught us that God required a blood sacrifice to atone, forgive and cleanse always sins.
- 3) Now the Old Covenant system of worship has been entirely abolished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- 4) Jesus brought to humanity a complete reformation of how we approach a holy God.

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