### Hebrews

## Chapter 9

1Now, under the first [Agreement], there were regulations for worship and a worldly Holy Place:  
  
2They prepared this first Tent, which contained both the [sacred] lampstand and the table for the showbread, and this was called ‘the Holy.’  
  
3Then behind the curtain was a second Tent called ‘the Most Holy.’ 4It contained a gold incense holder, plus the Chest of the Sacred Agreement (which was completely overlaid with gold).  
  
It contained:  
  
 • The gold jar of manna, [Exodus 16:33]  
 • Aaron’s staff that grew buds [Numbers 17:10], and  
 • The Tablets of the [Sacred] Agreement. [Leviticus 16:13]  
  
5Then, on top of it, there’s the glorious cherubs that cast a shadow over its cover (we don’t have time to talk about how these things were made).  
  
6Now, the Priests regularly entered the outer Tent to perform their sacred duties.Now, the Priests regularly entered the outer Tent to perform their sacred duties.<sup class="difference">[Syr] 7But only the High Priest entered the inner Tent once per year, along with the blood that he had to offer for both himself and for the peoples’ sins.  
  
8Now, the Breath of Holiness makes it clear that the path to ‘the Holy’ couldn’t be seen while the first Tent was standing… Well, 9this well illustrates that era – when they’d offer gifts and sacrifices that could never make them a perfect character! 10No, this whole thing was only about food, drink, and various types of [ritual] washing. These are fleshly, legal requirements [that would only last] until a time of correction.  
  
11But when the Anointed One came as the High Priest of the good things he accomplished, and entered the greater and more perfect Tent (that wasn’t made by [human] hands, nor was part of creation)... 12he didn’t enter with the blood of goats and young bulls. Rather, he entered the Holy Place just once, with his own blood, to get us age-long salvation!  
  
13Now, if the blood of goats and calves, or the ashes of a young cow, could be sprinkled on an unclean people and make their flesh holy and clean... 14How much more will [this be true of] the blood of the Anointed One? [The one] who, by the age-long spirit, offered himself spotlessly to God? Yes, he cleans our character from our former deeds, so we can keep serving the living God!  
  
15This is why he was made the mediator of the New Sacred Agreement – that through his death, he can become the ransom for those who sinned against the first Sacred Agreement... So that those who are called to the age-long inheritance can get what was promised!  
  
16[Understand that] whenever an agreement is made, [it’s strength] is only proved after the person who made it dies, 17because an agreement is really only valid if it manages to stay in place after they’re dead. It’s pretty pointless while the one who made it is still alive.  
  
18That’s why even the first [Sacred Agreement] had to be established with blood.  
  
19For after Moses had explained all the Commandments of the Law to the people, he took the blood of a young cow and mixed it with water, then with scarlet wool and hyssop, [he] sprinkled it over the scrolls and over all the people.  
  
20And he said to them:And he said to them:<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
 ‘This is the blood of the Sacred Agreement that God has made with you.’ [Exodus 24:8]  
  
21Next he sprinkled that blood on the Tent and over all the things that were used for ministering.  
  
22Yes, according to the Law, everything is cleansed by blood. So there’s no forgiveness unless blood is spilled!  
  
23It’s necessary that these things, which are symbols of heavenly things, should be cleaned that way. However, heavenly things require better sacrifices... 24So the Anointed One didn’t enter a Most Holy that was made with hands (which is just a symbol of the real thing), but rather, he actually entered heaven itself to stand before The God on our behalf!  
  
25Now, he doesn’t have to offer himself many times, like the High Priest does when entering the Most Holy every year (with blood that isn’t his own). 26Otherwise, [Jesus] would have to suffer many times since the start of the age! But now, at the end of the age, he’s offered himself only once... To abolish sin by means of his sacrifice.  
  
27And just like how men must die once (and after their death there’s a judgment), 28the Anointed One was also offered just once to carry the sins of many...  
  
But the second time [he appears], it’ll be without our sins – and those who are expecting him will see their salvation.