

In The Holy of Holies

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
<div>RECAP:</div>	<p>Last week, we started our look at Hebrews chapter 9.</p> <p>— We saw the elements in the temple that the author described, that pointed us to Christ and let us know about ourselves.</p> <p>— — We talked about how we are to be different from the world ... to be like Christ.</p> <p>— — — We saw that we should be reflecting Christ to the world around us.</p> <p>— — — — We asked ourselves if we are missing the value and meaning of the things that God has revealed to us.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 9:1–10 (NASB95): Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.</p> <p>2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.</p> <p>3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,</p> <p>4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;</p> <p>5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.</p> <p>6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,</p> <p>7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.</p> <p>8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,</p> <p>9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,</p> <p>10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.</p>	<p>We pick back up with our dive into the temple’s contents in verse 3. ... and begin with the content of the temple and the things behind the second veil in the Holy of Holies.</p> <p>— — The first thing that we are told about is a veil that separated the place where men could be and the place where God was.</p> <p>— — — This veil shut out the normal world from seeing what was in the second room.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The veil blocked sinful humanity from being near the presence of God.</p> <p>—Only once a year, the Day of Atonement, the high priest was to bring the sacrifice to God.</p> <p>— —But the high priest would have to go through all the cleaning rights and rituals so that he could enter the place where God’s presence was.</p> <p>— — — —<u>READ: Leviticus 16:2 (NASB95): 2 The Lord said to Moses: “Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.”</u></p> <p>— — — — —Humanity was too stained by sin to be in the presence of God and only the high priest could go in once a year after he had cleaned himself up.</p> <p>— — — — —God’s judgment falls on those who enter His presence who are sinful.</p> <p>— — — — — —Andrew Murray wrote, “The inner sanctuary was called the Holies of All or, as it is in Hebrews, the Holiness of Holiness. It was the highest embodiment there could be of holiness; it was the place where God Most Holy dwelt. His holy presence filled it. No man might enter there on pain of death but the high priest, and even he only entered once a year.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, this veil was a blessing to those who were in the first room, the Holy Place.</p> <p>— But the veil was also a constant reminder of the human condition.</p> <p>— — The veil reminded those that saw it; and it reminds us that we are a broken sinful creation who is at war with God if we are apart from God.</p> <p>— — — READ: James 4:4–10 (NASB95): 4 You <u>adulteresses</u>, do you not know that <u>friendship with the world is hostility toward God</u>? Therefore whoever wishes to be a <u>friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God</u>. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “<u>God is opposed to the proud</u>, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit therefore to God. <u>Resist the devil and he will flee from you</u>. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, <u>you sinners</u>; and purify your hearts, <u>you double-minded</u>. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 <u>Humble yourselves</u> in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.</p> <p>— — — — READ: Romans 8:6–8 (NASB95): 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The veil that keeps us from God is our sinful flesh and fleshly desires... Entertaining that sinful nature that lives inside of us.</p> <p>—But God, while we were enemies and not worthy of anything, tore that veil and made righteous all who would accept the Savior of the world as their Lord and Savior.</p> <p>— — READ: Romans 5:10 (NASB95): 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.</p> <p>— — READ: Romans 5:8–9 (NASB95): 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.</p> <p>— — — Jesus paid the price for our sin, He reconciled us to God the Father, not just once as the priest of the temple days would do, but for all time.</p> <p>— — — — If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God has redeemed you for all time, so there does not need to be a veil any longer between us; just a mediator who holds the way open for us to God at all times.</p> <p>— — — — — Through Christ we have direct access to God even though we still have sin in our lives, Christ covers us for all time.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Murray wrote this, “The veil was the symbol of separation between a holy God and sinful man: they cannot dwell together. The tabernacle thus expressed the union of two apparently conflicting truths. God called man to come and worship and serve Him, and yet he might not come too near; the veil kept him at a distance. His worship in the tabernacle testified to his longing for the restoration to the fellowship with God he had lost in Paradise but also to his unfitness for it and his inability to attain it.”</p> <p>— Interestingly enough, we looked at how we are now the temple of God and that He dwells inside all who would believe in Him.</p> <p>— — Problem is, we are still putting that veil up. Remember the veil is our sin.</p> <p>— — — We are the dwelling place of God and yet we still will put up a veil (sin) that separates us from the God of the universe.</p> <p>— — — — God has torn down the veil that separated us from Him and yet we keep trying to put that veil back up.</p> <p>— — — — — Tear down the veils that you have set up in your life.</p> <p>— — — — — — Dwell with God, worship Him with yourself (His temple), serve Him with yourself, and come near to Him because He has made the way.</p>

Scripture:	
<p>3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,</p> <p>4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;</p> <p>5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.</p>	<p>The second room, the Holy of Holies, had the golden altar of incense in it or near it.</p> <p>— There is debate as to where this altar was or if they were speaking about the altar at all ... or if it was about a censer of incense.</p> <p>— — And we could spend time looking at where the altar was or what it was, but our task is to understand how these things relate to Christ and how they cause us to be like Christ.</p> <p>— — — So Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice to God, a fragrant offering to God.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Ephesians 5:1–2 (NASB95):</u></p> <p>1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.</p> <p>— — — — — So too should we give ourselves as a fragrant offering to God as well. We do this not because we have to, but because we want to.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: 2 Corinthians 2:14–16 (NASB95):</u></p> <p>14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Next, we see the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies.</p> <p>— The content described in the ark are as Albert Mohler wrote, “All of these items broadly demonstrated God’s great acts of redemption, covenant faithfulness, and holiness. They each communicated specific things as well.”</p> <p>— — Aaron’s staff points us to how God kept his people alive in the wilderness.</p> <p>— — — The tablets reveal God’s covenant with His people.</p> <p>— — — — The golden urn with the manna reveal how God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness.</p> <p>— — — — — The ark itself reveals God’s love for Israel and His faithfulness towards them.</p>

Scripture:

So, Christ is the means by which God does these same things for us each and everyday.

—Jesus is the element of God’s great acts of redemption; **READ: Ephesians 1:7 (NASB95): 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”**, and faithfulness to us; **READ: 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NASB95): 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”** He revealed the Holiness of God to an unholy world. **READ: Hebrews 7:26–27 (NASB95): 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**

— —Like Aaron’s staff, Jesus keeps God’s people alive: **READ: Ephesians 2:4–7 (NASB95): 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

Scripture:	
	<p>— — — Like the tablets, in Christ we have the new covenant with God: READ: Hebrews 9:15 (NASB95): 15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.</p> <p>— — — — Like the manna, Christ sustains God’s people not just in the wilderness but for all time: READ: John 6:35 (NASB95): 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. READ: John 6:51 (NASB95): 51 “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”</p> <p>— — — — — Like the ark, Jesus reveals the love of God for humanity: READ: John 3:16 (NASB95): 16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.</p>
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>— Now we are the temple of God: READ: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB95): 16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? tells us.</p> <p>— So, if Jesus is all of these things, what are we?</p> <p>— — Well, just like those things in that ark, in the temple were proof of God’s great acts; so too are we the evidence of God’s great acts.</p> <p>— — — We are proof of God’s great power, love, grace, and more.</p> <p>— — — — We are the works of God on display to reveal to a lost and dying world, God’s great redemptive power.</p> <p>— — — — — Our hearts are now the mercy seat of God. He dwells within those who are believers in Christ.</p>

Scripture:	
	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>