

CHRIST HAS A SUPERIOR SANCTUARY

Aim of the Lesson: To see how Christ's work in Heaven is superior to the work of any priest on earth.

I. MINISTRY OF THE FIRST COVENANT WAS IN SANCTUARY ON EARTH – 9:1-10

Holy Place – the first room in the tabernacle – 9:2

Furniture: Candlestick [lampstand] and Table of Holy Bread – 9:2 [Golden Altar also was in this room, but its function on the Day of Atonement (context of this passage) related it to the Most Holy Place.]

Ordinary priests: always ministered for God in this room – 9:6

Veil – a thick veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place – 9:3

Ordinary priests: veil kept them from going into the Most Holy Place – 9:6-7

Most Holy Place – the second room in the tabernacle where God dwelt on earth – 9:3

Furniture: Smoke from the Altar of Incense [was used to cover the Ark of the Covenant when the high priest entered on the Day of Atonement]; Ark of the Covenant; Mercy Seat and two Cherubim – 9:4-5

High Priest: ministered in this room with three restrictions – 9:7

Only he could minister in this room

Only once a year on the Day of Atonement could he minister in this room

Only with blood for himself and for the people could he enter this room

These restrictions showed that free access into the Most Holy Place was not yet revealed – 9:8

Significance – repeated services in this tabernacle could not perfect the worshipper's conscience – 9:9-10

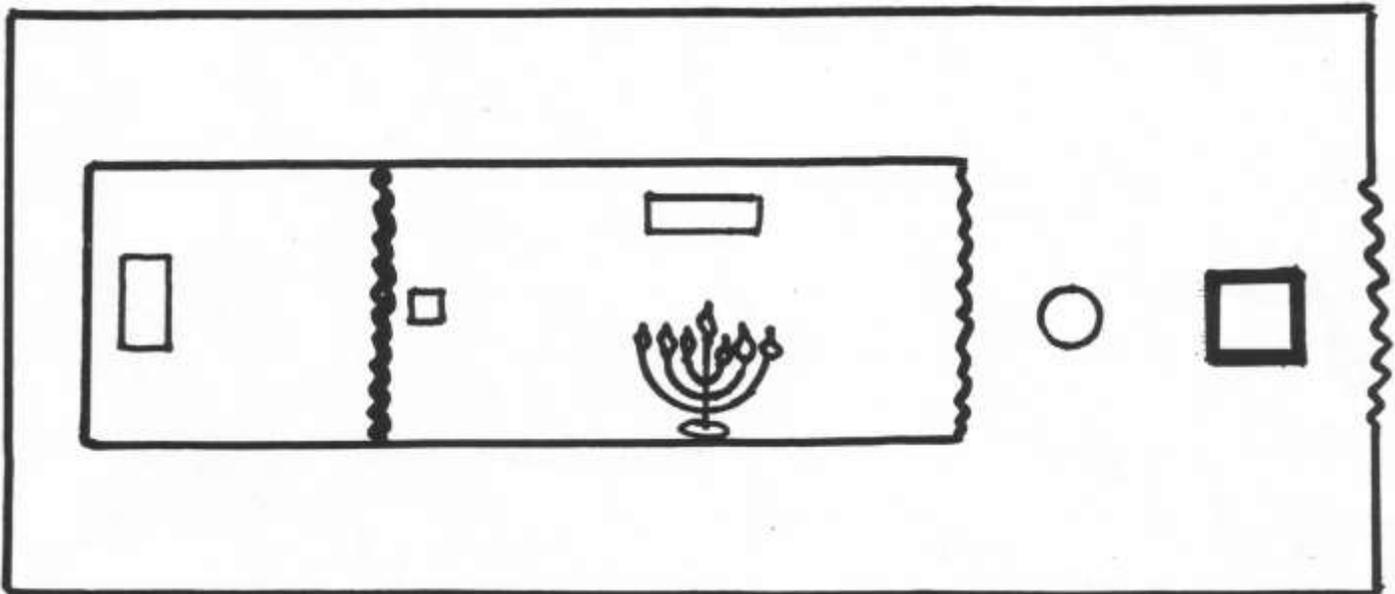


Diagram of the Tabernacle

II. MINISTRY OF THE NEW COVENANT IS IN A SANCTUARY IN HEAVEN – 9:11-28

Superior sanctuary – Christ serves in a sanctuary not made by hands, but in Heaven itself – 9:11, 24

Superior priest – Christ is high priest and mediator of the New Covenant by His death – 9:11-15

Superior redemption – Christ's redemption provides an eternal inheritance for us – 9:12, 15

Superior blood – Christ's blood replaces the blood of animals to provide eternal redemption – 9:12-14

Superior cleansing – Christ purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God – 9:14

Superior covenant – Christ mediates the New Covenant to redeem sinners by His death – 9:15

Superior sacrifice – Christ's sacrifice, not an animal sacrifice, was needed to purify us – 9:16-23

Superior ministry – Christ's new covenant ministry for believers is superior in three ways – 9:24-28

[Notice that Christ "appears" on behalf of believers in 9:24, 26, 28.]

THE PRESENT WORK OF CHRIST – 9:24; see 4:14-16.

He **appears now** in Heaven in the presence of God as our **High Priest**.

He intercedes for us to sanctify us by delivering us from the power of sin.

THE PAST WORK OF CHRIST – 9:25-26

He **appeared in the past** to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself as our **Savior**.

He saved us by His death on the cross to deliver us from the penalty of sin.

THE FUTURE WORK OF CHRIST – 9:27-28; see 10:12-13

He **shall appear in the future** without sin to achieve full salvation as our **King**.

He will glorify us when we reign with Him in His Kingdom delivering us from the practice of sin.

