

Response Questions
February 26, 2023 | Hebrews 8 & 9
More Than Meets the Eye
Pastor Bob Parks

If you know the Bible, you know that it reveals the reality of two realms that exist simultaneously: the seen and the unseen. The Apostle Paul refers to those two realms in 1 Cor. 4:18, *"We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."* The chapters we are considering this week, Hebrews 8 & 9, speak of the existence of a "true tent" (or tabernacle) that exists in heaven (the unseen realm) where Christ, our great High Priest, entered as the mediator of a new covenant, presenting his own blood as its seal through his sacrifice offered once for all. This reality was enacted in the unseen realm, but directly relates to us in the seen realm, who experience the supernatural work of God in the redemption of our hearts and lives through faith in Christ and union with him.

1. What is said about Christ in the opening verses of the Epistle to the Hebrews (1:1-4) that makes his sacrifice for sin spoken of in the following chapters so significant?
2. The writer of the epistle compares Christ to the angels (1:4-14), to Moses (3:1-6), to Joshua (4:9-10), to the high priests of Israel (4:14-5:10) and to Melchizedek (7:1-28). What conclusion is drawn from those comparisons?
3. If the earthly tabernacle is merely a "copy and shadow of the heavenly things" (8:5), what does that say about the tabernacle constructed by Moses (and the tabernacle's successor, the temple) and the covenant God established with Israel as compared to the new covenant He instituted in Christ (8:6-13)?
4. What was lacking in the earthly tabernacle and the ministry of its priests according to 9:8-10?
5. What did Christ do as "a high priest of the good things that have come" (9:11) that perfected and purified the consciences of those who were the beneficiaries of his priestly ministry (9:6, 14)?
6. What did the sprinkling of blood do as in the case of the tabernacle and the articles it contained (9:18-22)?
7. What is so important about the revelation the writer of Hebrews gives related to the "true tent" in the unseen realm where the blood of the sacrifice was presented in the holy place (9:23-26)?

8. How would this revelation of what occurred in the unseen realm directly impact Jewish converts to Christ who were living when the earthly tabernacle/temple was still functioning as the place of worship and sacrifice?
9. What does it mean to you that Christ “appeared in the presence of God on (your) behalf” and “put away (your) sin by the sacrifice of himself” . . . once for all (9:24-26)?
10. How does Christ’s second appearing culminate his redeeming work according to 9:28?