

# Better Access

HVFC

July 13, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 8:10 – 9:10

Summer is flying by, I hope you are getting your years' worth of vitamin D.  
It has been just gorgeous in our little mountain valley.

How many of you are still enjoying Hebrews?

I know, because I am hearing some feedback, that we are each being challenged by the Word of God. I don't remember who said it, but I know I have heard Bro. Bill say it, and it bears repeating. If the Word of God is a sword, and in your reading and study, if you are not getting cut a little you are doing it wrong.

Which in way was along the lines of last week's sermon.

I shared that we often construct a copy and shadow of what we think God wants. We try to function like OT believers, where it is only the actions that are important. My intentions or motives, my heart was not a factor.

God says that is a big part of the covenant he was changing with Jesus. He would write his laws on our heart. Our thoughts and inner conversations would become God's focus to help us become like Jesus.

Moses and the Israelites could not access God the way God showed Moses on top of the mountain. So Moses was instructed to build what he saw.

The writer ends chapter 8 and opens chapter 9 with what Moses built for the Tabernacle. And all that he built from the outside of the tabernacle to the Holy of Holies was to show us characteristics of God and how to access his presence. And with Jesus we have better access to God in the new covenant.

Turn with me to Hebrews 8 verse 10.

Hebrews 8:10-12

10 But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

11 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already.

12 And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

NLT

Let's Pray.

How many of you like to get the run around when you are trying to accomplish a project?

You have this problem. So you call the person you need to talk to.

They take a look; they hem and haw for a bit and say well you really need to talk to Joe over at this place. So you call, but no answer, so you drive by his shop. When you finally get to talk to him, he says oh, yea I used to do that but not anymore, you want to talk to Moe. You get to Moe and he says well that's funny you need to talk to Poe... And Poe is the guy you started with.

Anybody ever dealt with something like that?

It is so frustrating to be given the run around.

When you need answers, you want to go to the correct source and have access to the man with the plan that will work.

God wanted to give us access to him. He is the correct source with all the right answers, but there is a problem.

Man is sinful. Dreadfully sinful. Deadfully sinful.

We cannot have access to God because of our sin.

And God doesn't have a work around. He is holy and righteous and just, all of which condemn sin with its due judgement: death.

However, God in his infinite grace and mercy, allows Moses to see certain things and instructs him to build an earthly representation.

And just to recall to your memory, Hebrews 8:1-2 is the focal point. And I read from Revelation the description of the Throne room according to John.

So Moses builds the tabernacle.

And it is full of all these things.

What things? Great question.

Let's look at chapter 9.

Hebrews 9:1-2

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;

NKJV

I want to share briefly about each part mentioned. And work to how it represents God and allows access to him.

First, we have the Lampstand.

This one is not difficult.

They did not have modern forms of light back in those days, nor did they burn torches like we see in the movies.

They had lampstands which provided light for each room.

Remember the passage about lighting a candle and putting it under a basket? No one did that, it was lit to bring light to enclosed spaces for the purpose of seeing.

The lampstand was to symbolize the way to God, and to help us understand that God will show us the way.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

NKJV

And within the Sanctuary it would have provided light to do the work that was needed.

Within the Sanctuary they constantly cleaned. They had to keep the lampstand full of olive oil, the showbread which we will talk about in a minute had to be changed weekly. And all of the services that had to be done were all done under the light of the lamp. And as each function was done it allowed access to God.

We only serve God because of what He has done for us.

His light exposes areas we need give to God, it also allows us to examine ourselves.

To make sure we are walking according to his way, not ours.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

NKJV

Jesus is that light we use to examine ourselves with, and he gives us guidance to the Father by showing us the way. He tells us in John 8:12 that he is light of the world. That is the Lampstand.

The next one I will combine. It is a table that holds the showbread.

Hebrews 9:2

For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

NKJV

I enjoyed reading about the showbread, because no one really agrees with the symbolic meaning, of which they cover the gambit.

Bread of life, provision, presence, and the list goes on. One even said that since it was the dwelling place of God, the bread and table and lampstand were meant to symbolize a home, which would have all three.

But, this one stuck out to me for one reason. As I was reading this scripture in Hebrews 9:2, it had a notation that the Greek word for showbread had a Word Wealth commentary segment in Romans. (Explain Word Wealth if you need to) I am going to read that passage, and I wonder if you know which word is used that could also be translated as showbread.

((LEAVE THE SLIDE UP)) until I say take it down.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

NKJV

I don't really want you hollering out at me, because I am going to give you the answer, but take a second and read that again. Any word there that would be similar to showbread?

The answer is the last word. Purpose.

The word is Proth-es-is.

The showbread portrays God as one who provides what is needed for life and is a continual presence. Other places call the bread "the bread of presence". It was always present, and fresh.

In Romans it is the promise of God always being present in our circumstances, always working in us and through to bring about the good He has purposed for us. Which is to make us more like Jesus.

In Hebrews the showbread represents the Provision and presence of God in our life.

In Romans God's purpose represents the Presence of God and His provision to finish the work.

It tells us that God is active in our lives, he is not sitting in Heaven, ignoring His sons and daughters struggling through life.

Rather it demonstrates to us his faithfulness to fulfil his promises to us.

Jesus tells us that he is the bread of life.

The bread is meant to give us strength to endure to the end to arrive at the completed purpose of God, in his presence in Heaven.

These are the things in the first room, the sanctuary. The writer moves on to the second room in the following verses.

Hebrews 9:3-5

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.

NKJV

Now as we begin to think about this from the OT perspective. The Priest had to do the work of the Sanctuary correctly and only once a year could they enter into the Holy of Holies.

Now to take a minute here in thinking of the High Priest.

Last week I shared that every OT saint died in their sin, with only the promise that the lamb's blood would hold their place until sin could be dealt with in Jesus.

Meaning that every High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies was not cleansed of his sin, and God remembered his sin. God could not forget until Jesus came and paid the penalty. For those under the new covenant God makes a promise that he would no longer remember our lawlessness and sin.

Hebrews 8:12

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

NKJV

This is not the case for you and me. Do you realize we don't have to find a way, use worship, or say our prayers to enter God's presence?

His presence, his Holy Spirit lives inside of us. Wherever we are God's presence is there, we are a lampstand, we are the showbread to a lost and dying world, not because of us, but because God now lives in me. He lives in you.

I will get back to this in a minute, but I want to talk about the items in the Holy of Holies.

The author only identifies two things in this room.

The Alter of Incense and the Ark of the Covenant.

Quickly I want to talk about the Alter of Incense.

If any of you have ever burned incense, you know that it is a slow smoldering of strongly perfumed ingredients that fill the room with fragrance and smoke. In the OT it represented the constant prayers that were offered to God.

In the NT it symbolizes Jesus seated next to the throne of Grace making intercession for me and you.

Before the Ark of the Covenant, where God's presence was said to reside, was a continuous presentation of prayers being offered before God.

We sing and share scriptures from the Psalms about entering God's presence with thanksgiving and worship. These offerings of gratitude and worship are like the smoke of the burning incense and the fragrance is the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:8

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

NKJV



Our worship and prayers are what give off a fragrant beautiful odor of Jesus. And like Jesus' intercession, they continually come before him in a pleasing manner.

The second item was the Ark of the Covenant.

I am not going to cover the items that were placed in the ark, only to say that they were the representations for the Old Covenant. There was the manna that God gave the Children of Israel, the Rod of Aaron that established the Levitical Priesthood, and the Ten commandments, or tablets of Covenant, the law.

The Ark lid was decorated with the Cherubim angels that we read about last week in Revelation that continually cry holy, holy, holy at the throne of God.

They covered the Mercy Seat.

The Mercy seat is only mentioned twice in the NT, here in Hebrews and also in Romans 3:25.

The Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and burn incense, and then he was to pour the blood of the lamb on to the mercy seat of the Ark. The blood placed on the mercy seat God restrained his wrath and judgement on the sins of Israel for a year.

Romans 3:24-25

24 they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

25 God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed.

CSB

God took the offering Jesus made of his perfect blood to atone for my sin. That act now allows God to no longer remember my sin, wickedness, and lawlessness. He is able through the blood of Jesus to give us access to His presence continually.

At the crucifixion, remember the veil separating the Holy of Holies from the sanctuary was torn from top to bottom. This was God saying that he has provided a way for us to have much better access to his presence.

I am closing.

But I want to say some things to us today.

I grew up in the era of the Brownsville revival. It was a revival that was taking place in Brownsville, Texas I believe, and people were coming from around the world to attend a service at that time. And this is what I remember hearing, "oh God's presence in that place, you have to go the Brownsville to experience God's presence."

I am not saying that God didn't move. But God did not revert back to OT God where his presence was confined to a small roomlike representation of the Holy of Holies in Brownsville. People experienced God because they showed up expecting God to move. It was the worship, it wasn't the sermon, it wasn't the prayer, it solely rested on the expectation of those who went, why? Because God's presence lives within every believer.

The scripture says the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you. You wanna know why most churches don't experience revivals? They come to church with a grumbly, complaining, attitude. Oh great, it so-and-so's turn to lead

worship, the preacher is still in Hebrews, going to be another long boring message. Offering again, he just took that up last week.

Or we come to check the box because it is summer in Montana, got to get home to the BBQ, or have to get to the lake, or focusing on the rest of the day rather than coming to Church with an expectation to feel God's presence, to gain access to the creator of the Universe.

We have unfettered full access to God at every moment of the day. The new covenant he established through Jesus gives us access to God's presence.

We don't have to chase experiences to feel God's presence.

Flamboyant speakers, concert style worship, mission's trips, traveling to every movement we hear about.

We don't need lampstands, showbread, smokey incense, and expertly crafted props like the Ark of the Covenant.

They had to use these items to gain access to God, but we don't.

We have God's presence in our hearts.

We only have to expect it here.

Stand with me.

This morning I want to ask this. Do you come to church expecting God to move, to speak to you?

Or do you find yourself seeking a created, crafted, man-made experience to give you the goosebump feelies, that make you think you were in God's presence?

We have full and complete access to God, here, right now, without the worship, and lights, smoke and mirrors, and fancy communicators.

But you have to be expecting God, seeking God, because he has given us better access to him. Let's pray.

