

Jesus is a BETTER PLACE OF WORSHIP

Text: Hebrews 9:1 – 14

RULE – God is NOT worshiped EVERYWHERE (nor is He worshiped in whatever WAY we WANT): Hebrews 9:1

- 1) **GOD centered (THEISTIC) WORSHIP is NOT...**
 - a) Pantheism = all IS God SO I worship ALL creation
 - b) Panentheism = all IN God = God is omnipresent IN all SO I worship ANYWHERE/EVERYWHERE
- 2) **While God IS OMNIPRESENT (Psalm 139) He REGULATED worship to a PLACE, a PATTERN and a PECULIAR PEOPLE:** Exodus 25:8-9. See also: Genesis 4:5; Exodus 3:5; Leviticus 10:1-2

PICTURE – God’s OLD COVENANT (RELATIONSHIP) with His people centered WORSHIP at the TABERNACLE (TENT) and later the TEMPLE:

- 1) **This TENT and all its RITUALS were an INSTRUCTIVE COPY and FORETASTE of TRUE worship:** Hebrews 8:5a
- 2) **The TABERNACLE elements teach us key SPIRITUAL REALITIES:** Hebrews 9:2. See: Exodus 25:23-29, 31-39; Lev. 24:5-8
 - **ALTAR – our SINS must be paid for:** Exodus 27:1-8
 - **LAMPSTAND – We live in DARKNESS apart from God:** Heb 9:2bc
 - **BREAD – We LIVE in God’s PRESENCE and long for His FELLOWSHIP:** Hebrews 9:2d. See also: Exodus 25:30, Lev. 24:5-9, John 6:48
 - **Separating VEILS – We are SINNERS cut off from a HOLY God:** Hebrews 9:2e-3. See: Exodus 26:33
 - **INCENSE – We need to PRAY and yet we are UNABLE to come to God:** Hebrews 9:4a. See: Ex. 30:1, 6-7; Lev. 16:12c–13; Rev. 8:3-4
 - **MANNA – We are completely DEPENDENT on God’s PROVISION:** Hebrews 9:4c. See also: Exodus 16:33–34
 - **STAFF – We need and live under God’s MEDIATED AUTHORITY:** Hebrews 9:4d. See also: Numbers 17:5, 10
 - **10 COMMANDMENTS – We need God’s LAW to RESTRAIN our evil, REVEAL our sin, and REMIND us of our need for a Savior:** Heb 9:4e.
- 3) **The ARK of the COVENANT teaches us how BEAUTIFUL and yet DIFFICULT it is to WORSHIP in the PRESENCE of God:** Heb. 9:4b, 5. See also: Exodus 25:21-22; Leviticus 16:2, 15
- 4) **WORSHIP in God’s PRESENCE was LIMITED to mere MOMENTS for a HOLY FEW:** Hebrews 9:6-7. See also: Leviticus 16
- 5) **OLD COVENANT worship was INCOMPLETE:** Hebrews 9:9b–10

REALITY – God’s NEW COVENANT (RELATIONSHIP) with His people brings us into BETTER WORSHIP: Hebrews 9:8–9a

- 1) **INITIATED by a better WORSHIP LEADER:** Hebrews 9:11a; John 1:14, 17:4; See also: Hebrews 2:17
- 2) **ESTABLISHED in a better TEMPLE:** Hebrews 9:11b-12a. See also: 8:2
 - a) **Jesus gives us access to THE Holy Place – God’s PRESENCE:** Hebrews 10:19–20. See also: Hebrews 4:15-16
 - b) **He did this through His physical DEATH:** Mark 15:37–38
 - c) **AUTHENTIC worship now happens WHENEVER worshipers of Jesus come before HIM in SPIRIT and TRUTH:** John 4:21, 23–24
- 3) **SECURED by a better SACRIFICE for our SINS:** Hebrews 9:12b, 14bc
- 4) **OFFERED by better CLEANSSED worshipers:** Hebrews 9:13, 14abd
See: Numbers 19:11, 20
 - a) **Jesus’s CLEANSING is NECESSARY:** John 13:8c
 - b) **His cleansing is PROMISED:** 1 John 1:9
 - c) **His cleansing is SUFFICIENT:** Isaiah 1:18 See also: John 15:3; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Colossians 1:21-22, 2:13-14
 - d) **His cleansing FREES us to DRAW NEAR to God:** Hebrews 10:22
- 5) **TRANSFORMS us to LIVE better lives of WORSHIP in God’s PRESENCE:** Hebrews 9:14de
 - a) **We have a NEW IDENTITY and MISSION:** 1 Peter 2:9
 - b) **OUR LIVES become TEMPLES of WORSHIP:** Romans 12:1. See also: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16
- 6) **FOREVER and WHEREVER are the REDEEMED:** Hebrews 9:12c
 - a) **Where His PEOPLE are GATHERED:** Matt. 18:20
 - b) **He has PROMISED His PERSONAL PRESENCE:** Matthew 28:20
 - c) **SOMEDAY this REALITY will become MATERIAL:** Rev. 21:1–3

Gospel In Life Group Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?