

Discussion Queries

Hebrews 9:1-14

READ 9:1-2

1. What did the First Covenant provide for Israelites?

- Regulations and earthly, sacred places.

2. What was inside the 'Holy Place'?

- Lampstand, table and loaves of bread.

READ 9:3-5

3. What was inside the 'Most Holy Place'?

- Incense altar, covenant chest, jar of manna, Aaron's rod, the covenant.

4. Where was the incense altar located?

- There are two views.

View #1: In the Holy Place, near the central curtain.

View #2: In the Most Holy Place, near the central curtain.

5. How should we understand the "mistake" about the golden altar of incense?

- The 'mistakes in the Bible' theory
- The 'change of place' theory
- The 'textual variant' theory
- The 'vague Greek grammar' theory
- The 'directional perspective' theory

The 'imprecise language' theory

6. What are cherubim (cherubs)?

- Created divine beings that guard holy places from intrusion by defiled creatures.
- Both the Bible and pagans represented cherubim with images of sphinx.

READ 8:6-10

7. What were some weaknesses of the tabernacle system?

- We ordinary folk were not allowed to enter into 'the holy places'.
- Beast sacrifices could not perfect our conscience (consciousness).
- The 'first tent' was a 'parable' of the heavenly reality, which was not yet open.

8. When did the 'time of reformation' begin?

- See 9 :11.

READ 9:11-12

9. In what ways is the heavenly reality better than the earthly?

- Christ has secured our eternal redemption.
- By means of his own blood.
- Once for all.
- As high priest of the 'good things' that have come.

READ 9:13-14

10. What did the earthly system 'purify', and what does the heavenly 'purify'?

- Earthly purity was ceremonial, allowing priests to enter the first tent for service.
- The heavenly is spiritual, allowing us to serve the living God.

11. What is it that makes Christ's sacrifice permanent, once for all?

- Christ is an eternal Spirit, making his sacrifice eternally efficacious.
- We are no longer 'conscious' of sin separating God from us.
- We all now serve the Living God.