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Hebrews, Chapter Nine - Part I

1. Read Hebrews 9:1-7: Is the tabernacle Moses built a replica of one in heaven?

Baptist viewpoint of the tabernacle Moses built (similar to SDA; RCC; Mennonite & others). The four named have replicas of the wilderness tabernacle, though some are not exact copies:

The Mercyseat is located within this tabernacle in Heaven, just as it was in the Old Testament tabernacle. God had required for the Jewish High Priest to perform a ceremonial sacrifice once per year to atone for the sins of the Israelite people. The sacrifice pictured the coming Messiah Who would someday die on the cross for the sins of all people. This ceremonial event ceased when Christ died on the cross because the shadow of things to come was now obsolete, Jesus had fulfilled the prophecy. The Old Testament tabernacle, priests, holy of holies and mercyseat were all a shadow (or replica) of the Tabernacle and in Heaven. Who serve unto the EXAMPLE AND SHADOW OF HEAVENLY THINGS, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 5:8 {sic Heb 8:5}). The Old Testament tabernacle was a mirror image of the tabernacle in Heaven where Christ would someday make the ultimate sacrifice with His shed blood. Jesus used His own blood to pay for our sins. Christ's blood was applied to the Mercyseat in Heaven. For anyone to teach that Jesus' blood has no redeeming power is a false prophet. To diminish the necessity of Christ's blood sacrifice is an abomination unto God.

http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/salvation_webpages/09-blood_applied_in_heaven.htm, David J. Stewart

{If the wilderness tabernacle is a mirror image of a heavenly one, where does that leave the temple built by Solomon and the one built later by Zerubbabel and Ezra, both of which were built mostly from stones and arranged with different dimensions? Their beliefs are based on statements in the books of Hebrews and Revelation, Heb 8:5; 9:23-24; Rv 11:19 & taken to be literal. However, if the temple being opened in heaven is literal, then everything in Revelation 11 has to be literal - two olive trees and 24 elders. If the elders are literal, then so are the four living creatures (beasts, KJ), Rv 5:8; 14:3, and the red dragon, Rv 12:3, and on and on.}

Read Hebrews 9:8-11:

2. If the tabernacle does not represent a heavenly one and the cross, what does it represent? Heb 8:4-5; 10:1; 2Cor 5:1-3; See also Ex 19:5-6; Rv 1:5-6

{A shadow IS NOT a replica, or mirror image of anything. A shadow does not contain details of what is casting the shadow. The Holy Spirit made clear that the way into the 'holy places' was not made apparent while the original had a standing, cp Gal 3:19, which was a parable (KJ says *figure*), for the time before the Messiah appeared. Israel was acting out the parable by keeping the rituals of the tabernacle & feasts. The tabernacle is a outward picture of what God does inwardly, in the heart of mankind, Eze 36:25-27.

Parable: from Greek *parabole*^{g3850}, from *paraballo*^{g3846}: meaning *to compare*

1. a short story that uses familiar events to illustrate a religious or ethical point
2. (Bible) any of the stories of this kind told by Jesus Christ. Parables contain symbols (seed=word, earth=self)
The ministry of Christ is spiritual, of the spirit in the mind, Eph 4:22-24. He is trying to change the way we think, Jn 3:12; Isa 55:7-9; 1Cor 15:45-50. Outward actions are based on inward thoughts.}

3. What other Bible proofs are there that the tabernacle represents what God is doing in humanity?

Lv 16:5-6, 9

{On the Day of Atonement, the high priest offered a young bull as a sin offering for him & his house; the sin offering for the rest of the people was a goat. Scripture refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God, Jn 1:29; Rv 5:6, and never the 'goat' of God. Individually, people could offer a lamb or a goat as a sin offering, Ex 12:5; Lv 1; 10; 4:23, 28, as well as birds or grain. The types do not fit the cross, the Lamb slain. The shed blood of animals & entire tabernacle service are to help us see ourselves, but they do not represent the cross. They do, however, help us understand the cross & the reason Christ died in order to build the spiritual tabernacle within us.}

4. Even the construction & procedure of the tabernacle service showed it to be a parable for human perfection.

Ex:26:1-2: 10 curtains, measuring 4 x 28 cubits, made out of 'goats' hair, covered the tent: Gen 3:21

{The tabernacle service went from east to west; Adam & Eve were placed eastward in Eden, & instead of moving west, they left the garden - i.e. they chose to mingle their own ideas with God's.

#10: obey God's voice, keep His covenant, Ex 19:5; Dt 4:13; Rom 7:14; Heb 8:8-10, first the old, then the new

4: our earthliness (opposite God, who is heavenly, Isa 55:7-9), Parable of the Sower, Mk 4:1-20.

#28: 4 x 7 = Mankind's fullness of earthly thinking. A synopsis of the temples as types:

Three temples made with hands, plus one made without hands - the heavenly:

*Tabernacle in the wilderness: A person decides to leave the worldly lifestyle to serve God. The sincere will continue to advance in understanding. Keeping the law according to way they are taught by their group.

*Temple Solomon built: A person has a basic, but accurate understanding of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit; they see that the law is spiritual. They move from wilderness thinking into the promised land & build a new temple. Babylon destroys this temple, which depicts the confusion mingled with the truth.

*Temple built by Zerubbabel & Ezra: Built in the last generation. Although the Desire of the ages, Hag 2:7 KJ (cf 1Sam 9:20; 2Ch 21:20) comes to this temple, self is still involved. Depicts the possession of Christ & the Holy Spirit. This temple is destroyed by Rome - i.e. the last remnants of self & universal false teachings are purged.

*Tabernacle/temple made without hands: Final cleansing of the spiritual temple, Col 2:11; 1Cor 3:16-17; 2Cor 5:1-2; 6:16; Act 17:24-31, seen in Rv 8:1-6, as cleansing by fire.}

Read Hebrews 9:12-14:

5. How does the blood of Christ purge/cleanse the conscience from dead works to serve God? Lv 4:16-21; Heb 13:11-16; 1Jn 1:7

{The bullock offered by the high priest for the people represents the character trait of self that must be put to death (cf Ps 32:9; 73:22; Ecc 3:18); the sprinkling of blood with the finger is an allegory of teaching the faith, or understanding of the cross (Jn 20:24-29; cp Lk 11:20 & Mt 12:28), showing we must be crucified with Christ, Rom 6:3-7. The tabernacle/temple was inside the city; the cross was outside the city. The universal understanding of the cross (Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins) is part of the last remnants of Rome that must be destroyed in our thinking (more on this in part II).

Allegory^{g238}: The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form.}