

Hebrews 9:1-10

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Introduction: The “promise” of a waiting room, v8. By commanding this design, the Holy Spirit was saying that as long as the first tabernacle stood, the way to the true Holy of Holies was closed. God could still be worshiped, and Christ could still be hoped in. But it was absolutely clear that only Christ Himself truly opens the way to being right with God and at peace with Him.

1. The waiting rooms

- a. There are really two. The entire first covenant is a sort of waiting room for the second. And the earthly tabernacle had a “Holy Place” and a “Most Holy Place”
- b. Holy Place. Lampstand, table, and showbread.
- c. Holy of Holies (Most Holy Place, etc.).
 - i. Behind a second veil.
 - ii. Emphasis upon the gold. Reminders of another world.
 - iii. Emphasis upon safety
- d. The mercy seat. A name that looked forward to Christ, whom Hebrews keeps telling us “sat down” on God’s throne.

2. The waiting

- a. Daily waiting, v6. The upkeep of the waiting room in hope that it would no longer be needed one day.
- b. Yearly waiting, v7. The service of the Day of Atonement. The treatment of symptoms in hope of a cure. God required perfect obedience, and how could a goat take the penalty of a sinful man who deserves to be punished in his eternal soul?

Conclusion: Is your conscience cleansed before God? Even the first covenant had religious services. Dear Christian, though our worship is simpler and with less visible glory, we too will be greatly mistaken if we think that it is our actions that bring us to God. Our actions have value only as given by Christ, who alone brings us to God in Himself. We worship as commanded by God, but that worship cannot cleanse and cure us. That is something only Jesus can do!