

1. Hebrews 9 presents a detailed contrast between the old covenant sanctuary (the tabernacle) and the new covenant heavenly sanctuary where Jesus Christ now ministers.
2. The regulations and practices in the tabernacle were ordained of God. If there was any inferiority in the tabernacle service, it was not because God had not established the ritual.
3. While the old covenant was in force, the ministry of the priests was ordained of God and perfectly proper. (Hebrews 9:1-10)
4. There are five main points in verses 1-10 showing the limitations of the old covenant.
5. First - it was an earthly sanctuary (v1).
6. It was made by man and pitched by man. The Jewish people generously brought their gifts to Moses, and from these materials the tabernacle was constructed. (Exodus 35-40)
7. Even though the glory of God moved into the sanctuary, it was still an earthly building, constructed by humans out of earthly materials.
8. It belonged to the nation of Israel and not to the whole world.
9. Next - It was a type of something greater (v2-5).
10. The writer listed the various parts and furnishings of the tabernacle because each of these carried a spiritual meaning. They were “patterns of things in the heavens.”
11. The phrases “the first” (Heb. 9:2) and “the second” (Heb. 9:7) refer to the first and second divisions of the tabernacle. The first was called the holy place and the second the holy of holies.
12. Each of these divisions had its own furnishings, and each piece of furniture had its own special meaning.
13. No doubt many spiritual truths are wrapped up in these pieces of furniture, and all of them are of value. But the most important truth is this: all of this was a type and not the spiritual reality. It was this fact that made the tabernacle of the Old Covenant inferior.
14. Next - it was inaccessible to the people (v6-7).
15. We must not get the idea that the Jews assembled in the tabernacle for worship. The priests and Levites were permitted into the tabernacle proper, but not the people from the other tribes.
16. Even though the priests ministered in the holy place day after day, only the high priest entered the holy of holies. (only once a year)

17. When he did, he had to offer a sacrifice for his own sins as well as for the sins of the people. In contrast, the heavenly tabernacle is open to all of the people of God, and at all times.
18. Next - it was temporary (v8). The fact that the first tabernacle was standing was proof that God's work of salvation for man had not yet been completed.
19. Finally - its ministry was external, not internal (v9-10).
20. The sacrifices offered and the blood applied to the mercy seat could never change the heart or the conscience of the people.
21. All of the ceremonies associated with the tabernacle had to do with ceremonial purity, not moral purity.
22. They were "carnal ordinances" that pertained to the outer man but that could not change the inner man.
23. The writer now gives us five superiorities of the new covenant sanctuary. In every way, the present sanctuary is superior.
24. First - it is heavenly (v11).
25. The writer has emphasized this fact before - wanting his readers to focus their attention on the things of heaven and not on the things of earth.
26. The old covenant tabernacle was made by the hands of men (Ex. 35:30-35). The new covenant sanctuary was not made with hands.
27. The phrase "not of this building" means "not of this creation." The tabernacle of Moses was made with materials that belong to this creation.
28. The phrase "good things to come" had already arrived! All that was foreshadowed by type in the tabernacle was now reality because of Christ's priestly ministry in heaven.