

One Way to Heaven

Both in the tabernacle and in the temple, there was a sacred place behind a curtain called the “Holiest of All” (Hebrews 9:3). The ark of the covenant with its mercy seat was placed within that “Most Holy Place.” According to God’s law given to Israel, once a year the high priest went alone with the blood of an animal to sprinkle it upon the mercy seat for the sins of the whole nation (Leviticus 16:3, 34; Hebrews 9:7). God promised to meet with the high priest above the mercy seat (Exodus 25:22; Leviticus 16:2). Things under the old law served as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things and of the good things to come (Hebrews 8:5: 10:1). While the first tabernacle and temple remained standing, the way into the Holiest was not made manifest (Hebrews 9:8).

Jesus came to make the Holiest of All accessible to mankind. He as our High Priest entered once the Most Holy Place in heaven with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:11-12). “For Christ has not entered the holy place made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us” (9:24). God lives in heaven.

Now by the blood of Jesus men may enter the Holiest (Hebrews 10:19-20). It is described as “a new and living way which He consecrated for us.” Sin separates man from God. Jesus “appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself . . . So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many” (Hebrews 9:26, 28). There is no other way to heaven but through Jesus. He said, “I am the way, . . . No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Christ’s way to heaven is a confining or difficult way (Matthew 7:14). He preached, “If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” (8:31). His words are eternal life. His doctrine will set us free. His commandments will judge us. Any attempt to reach heaven by a different way other than what is revealed in the gospel of Christ, or to change the inspired word of the Lord means to fall short of entering into the Holiest of All. Jesus promised rest for our souls, but we must wear His “yoke” and learn from Him (Matthew 11:29).