

DAY 23 MONDAY

HEBREWS 9:1-5 A GOOD PLAN FOR A GREAT PROJECT

¹ Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ² A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

There is a reverence expressed by the author in the detailed description of the earthly sanctuary. It is an explanation that honors the entity for what it is; made to the order of God and for the proper worship of God. At the same time, the author finds it necessary to tear himself away from the description in order to share something of greater importance.

When a craftsman designs and makes a piece of furniture, he will spend energy and time on translating an idea into a drawing and a plan. These are not only important but necessary steps in the project. Only through the plans will he be able to know what pieces of wood are necessary for the project and the manner in which the various pieces must be cut and joined together in order to translate that drawing into a piece of furniture that matches the original idea. Getting the idea on paper is rewarding in and of itself, but no where near as rewarding as being able to gaze upon and caress the actual completed piece.

The first covenant and the associated tabernacle are the material plans that God provided so that we might understand the elements of true worship and how they fit together. To understand how a finished project is designed to work, one must refer to the plans. Although the first covenant is replaced by the new covenant, we need to reverence it for what it is; God's explanation to us of how we are to worship through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Dear God, deliver me from generational pride through which I tend to reject those things that my ancestors have done. Help me to see your guiding hand and your perfect plan of revelation in all that has gone on before I came into existence. Grow in me a generous and gracious heart that looks back in thanksgiving for the history of your people. Remind me that without what is in the past I could not know how to be your child. Amen.