

## **The Church of Christ is The Temple of God Hebrews 9**

**The Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple were a material or physical forms of worship commanded in Exodus 40. Christian worship will be spiritual.**

**John 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.**

**These were a shadow of the perfect spiritual worship to come in Christianity.**

**Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect**

**Hebrews 8:5-6 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 shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**

**Hebrews 9:1 Then verily the first [covenant] had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.**

**The two covenants, the Mosaic and the Christian, have been named in chapter 8.**

**Here in chapter nine they are contrasted. The first, or Mosaic, had its ordinances, and a sanctuary, tabernacle or temple of worship, in this world.**

**All things outside the cloth or tapestry fence around the tabernacle was considered profane or not holy which was a shadow of the worldly.**

**In approaching the tabernacle the first object was the altar of sacrifice on which was offered bloody sacrifices which were a shadow of the perfect sacrifice of Christ.**

**John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

**I Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

**The altar had 4 horns, one on each corner which was a shadow of Jesus. Zacharias the father of John the Baptist prophesied Jesus was our horn:**

**Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;**

**Psalm 18:2 The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.**

**Psalm 132:17 There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.**

**Upon that altar God required bloody sacrifice which was just the shadow of the living sacrifices of the Christian life when we flee to Christ for salvation.**

**Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:**

**In Israel were cities of refuge into which the man slayer could flee and lay hold upon the horns of the altar and take refuge there protected by the Priests.**

**Romans 12:1-2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Next before reaching the tabernacle was the Laver where Priests washed which was a shadow of Christian baptism which is the final step in making us kings and priests to God. For God had always wanted His people to be a nation of priests.**

**Exodus 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation ...”**

**Acts 2:38-39** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [even] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

When a person is baptized into Christ (cf: Galatians 3:27) he becomes a priest unto God. Old Testament priests were anointed with oil cf: Exodus 30:22-33, Leviticus 14:6 & 27. Christ was anointed with the oil of gladness Speaking of Christ cf:

**Hebrews 1:9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Which, Peter teaches was a shadow of Christ being Anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 10:36-38** The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37 That word, [I say], ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; 38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

All Christians receive this same oil of gladness, which is the Holy Spirit, when they are baptized into Christ cf:

**Acts 22:16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**Romans 3:3-6** For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. 5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? [/s] God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Acts 2:38-39** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [*even*] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Hebrews 9:1** Then verily the first [covenant] had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

**The Old Testament temple was a shadow of the Church of Christ. When a person truly comes to Christ in faith with repentance and is baptized into Christ the Lord adds him to the Church cf: Acts 2:37-47.**

**Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. And thus we become one more brick in the wall.

**Ephesians 2:19-22** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. God does not desire to dwell in a physical building like the Temple which was a shadow of God dwelling in the hearts of His people through the Holy Spirit.

**Hebrews 9:2** For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein [was] the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

**The tabernacle was a shadow of a spiritual house the Church of Christ.**

**Only Priests could enter or serve in the Temple which was a shadow of all Christians being Priests to God cf:**

**I Peter 2: 5-9** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [*even to them*] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were

**appointed. 9 But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:**

**The candlestick or menorah, See Exod. 25:31-40. was made of gold and had seven lamps for burning olive oil. The candlestick or menorah provided all the light in the temple was a shadow of Christians being “the light of the world”**

**Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

**The table of shewbread, on which were kept 12 loaves of unleavened bread, cf: Leviticus 24:5-9. Only priests could eat of this bread. This was a shadow of the Lord’s supper which we as priests are to eat weekly in the Christian age.**

**Matthew 26:26-30 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed [it], and brake [it], and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom. 30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.**

**Acts 20:7 And upon the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight**

**Hebrew 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;**

**The first veil was over the door into the Temple or holy place, which we have been discussing. The second veil separated this holy place from the Holy of Holies, or, the Most Holy Place.**

**Before this veil was an altar of incense which was kept burning by the priest, such as Zacharias was doing when the Angel Gabriel appeared to him cf:**

**Luke 1:8-10 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 9 According to the custom of the priest's office,**

**his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.**

**This being before the veil signified that the prayers under the Old Testament worship system did not yet have direct access to God, but had to wait for the High Priest to enter into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement. This was a shadow of the better thing to come for under the Christian dispensation, the veil of the temple was rent at the death of Christ, cf:**

**Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;**

**Thereby giving each Christian direct access to God by his prayers, of which, the altar of incense was a mere shadow of the prayers of the saints coming up to God in the coming Christian age.**

**Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.**

**Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.**

**Hebrews 10:19-22 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And [having] an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

**Thus we as Christians having come to God in the appointed way and having the blood of Christ to our credit may boldly approach God in faith with our prayers.**

**In the Holy of Holies:**

**Hebrews 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein [was] the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;**

**“Which had the golden censer ... “ In the golden censer was burned incense in the Most Holy Place, when the High Priest entered it once a year on the Day of Atonement cf: ( Lev. 16:12 ).**

**“... the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, ...”**

**The ark of the covenant.**

**Exod. 25:10-16 And they shall make an ark [of] shittim wood: two cubits and a half [shall be] the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. 12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put [them] in the four corners thereof; and two rings [shall be] in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. 13 And thou shalt make staves [of] shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. 15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. 16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.**

**This chest, made of a-CA-ci-a wood and overlaid with gold, was the most sacred object in the tabernacle or temple.**

**“ ... wherein [was] the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; ...” Wherein was the gold pot that had manna ( Exod. 16:32-34 ). Aaron's rod ( Num. 17:1-11 ). The two stone tables of the ten commandments (law). ( Deut. 10:1-5 ).**

**Hebrews 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.**

**And over the mercy seat were the cherubim, which were symbolic figures of angels, cf:**

**Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.**

**These were made of gold and they hovered over the lid of the ark, called the mercy seat.**

**Hebrews 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service [of God].**

**The present tense verb used in the Greek shows the temple, which was a copy of the tabernacle, was still standing when the Epistle was written before 70 AD.**

**Hebrews 9:7 But into the second [went] the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and [for] the errors of the people:**

**See Leviticus 16:11-15 & Exodus 30:10-25**

**Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:**

**It required the Gospel to open the way. The veil still covered the mystery of redemption. So long as the first tabernacle or temple worship stood as the divine service, the true and living way opened up through Christ was not yet made manifest.**

**Hebrews 9:9 Which [was] a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;**

**“Which was a figure ...” The Jewish rites were not the true and complete divine service but only shadows, figures or types. Both gifts and sacrifices were symbols. Nor could they make the worshiper perfect. They could not cleanse him from all sin, deliver him from all fear, nor make his conscience clear from guilt.**

**Hebrews 9:10 [Which stood] only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed [on them] until the time of reformation.**

**They pertained to the flesh, were outward, did not renew the spirit, and were temporal, imposed until the time of reformation. That is, until the new covenant was ushered in.**

**Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;**

**Acts 7: 47-50 But Solomon built him an house. 48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, 49 Heaven [is] my throne,**

**and earth [is] my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what [is] the place of my rest? 50 Hath not my hand made all these things?**

**Christ's work is now placed in direct contrast to the temple service. Christ, our high priest, through "a greater and more perfect tabernacle" His body "not made with hands." True Christianity is not a material building, the true and great tabernacle service by which "good things," our heavenly blessings are secured is through Christ. Christ by His sacrifice entered into the true Holiest of All ... into Heaven - which the Holiest of Holies was only a shadow or symbol.**

**Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].**

**The high priest always carried into the Most Holy Place the blood of the atonement, but Christ carried his own blood when he entered the Holy of Holies in heaven.**

**Hebrews 7:22-27 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this [man], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 Who needeth not daily (sacrifice), as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**

**Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:**

**"For if the blood of bulls and goats, ..." This was shed for the symbolic purification of the people on the day of atonement. See Num. 19:21. Which was a shadow of:**

**Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

**If the blood of animals had any efficacy to purify, how much better is the blood of Christ? He was dragged to the sacrifice like the victims, but He laid down his life to take it up again.**

**John 10: 17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

**This he did as God's Anointed, anointed with the Spirit, acting by its power.**

**Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**

**It is by his death that they which are called, of every dispensation, have the promise of eternal inheritance.**

**Hebrews 9:16 For where a testament [is], there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.**

**An inheritance has just been spoken of.**

**Hebrews 9:17 For a testament [is] of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.**

**The old covenant was in force to the cross; it was then "nailed to the cross," and Christ having died, the New Testament came into force.**

**Hebrews 9:18 Whereupon neither the first [testament] was dedicated without blood.**

**The death and shedding of the blood of Christ was necessary to the inauguration of the New Testament, as has just been shown. Even at the inauguration of the Old Testament, death was necessary, the death of an innocent victim, which was a shadow of Christ's death.**

**Hebrews 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,**

**For the events alluded to, see Exod. 24:1-8. All that God had proclaimed in the ten commandments and the accompanying precepts ( Ex. 21-23 ) was written in the book of the covenant or law.**

**Hebrews 9:20 Saying, This [is] the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.**

**This covenant embraced the ten commandments , also known as the Decalogue, yet it was the covenant done away with to make room for the covenant of Christ.**

**Hebrews 9:21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.**

**Afterwards, about a year later, when the tabernacle was ready, both it and its furniture were sprinkled ( Exod. 40:9-15 Lev. 8:24 ).**

**Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

**See Leviticus 16:16, Leviticus 16:19 & Leviticus 16:33**

**Without shedding of blood is no remission. Every sin under the law required atonement, and no atonement could be made without blood.**

**Hebrews 9:23 [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.**

**The tabernacle and all its service were shadows. These were ceremonially purified, as we have just seen, by the blood of bulls and goats.**

**Hebrews 8:5 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 shewed to thee in the mount.**

**Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:**

**There, in the presence of God, Jesus Christ intercedes for us, as the high priest interceded in the Holy of Holies once a year before the *She-ki-nah* righteousness of God which dwelt above the mercy seat.**

**But now is Jesus seated at God's right hand making intercession for us.**

**Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?**

**Hebrews 4:12-16 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things [are] naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

**Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

**Hebrews 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;**

**The high priest entered once a year with the blood of a victim. Not so Christ, our High Priest.**

**Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

**He must have suffered many times, but only once did he offer Himself as a sacrifice.**

**“ ... in the end of the world ...” At the end of the Jewish dispensation; literally, "the end of the ages," the end of the antediluvian, patriarchal and Jewish ages.**

**Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: There is a fixed order for all men is to die, and to be judged after death.**

**Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

**Christ died once as a sin offering, and will appear the second time without sin.  
Keep your eyes open ... watch and pray ... look for Him ... hope for Him ... be ready  
for Him ...**

**Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, B.W Johnson's People's New Testament  
Commentary, Coffman's Commentary, and Clarke's Commentary.**