**Greater Than All - wk 9 – How Much More!**

**Your house – home – reflects who you are… style, furniture, colors, usefulness. Did you know God has a dwelling place?**

**The primary arch - don’t give up but grow up - move forward in your faith! They wanted to go back… the writer is, “Why!?!”**

**What's with the Temple - why is it a big deal?**

**Surprisingly one of the most significant yet least understood things**

**The Temple - was not just a place it was a way of life.**

* **God’s intention from the start has always been to dwell w/ us.**
* **God created man to dwell with him – Adam brought – SIN**
* **God (holy & perfect) because of sin - no longer dwell w/ man**
* **Through Moses - God sets in place a way for God to dwell w/ men - if only temporarily. That was the Temple.**

**We need to understand the mindset of the Hebrews. (Show temple)**

**Mount Moriah - The place God spoke to Abraham, Jacobs, and David.**

**Built with instruction by God - gloriously built - took great pride in the temple - wonder of the ancient world - nothing compared.**

**It was the place God met man. Their life revolved around it.**

**Last couple chapters Jesus is greater than any priest.**

**Today Jesus is greater than the temple in Jerusalem.**

**Hebrews 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. 2 A tabernacle was set up. (the temple and priest system - a specific way it was to be built and run) In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. (sanctuary – Latin - sanctum) 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, (Latin - sanctum sanctorum) 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. (But we can…)**

**The Temple: (pic) Let’s take a look at what they were thinking.**

**Mt Moriah - 100-135 ft long/ 30 ft wide / 100-150 ft tall (6 stories high). 7yrs work - thousands of workers – the Interior overlaid in gold.**

**Courtyard of temple on 35 acres. 26 football fields Massive!**

* **Outside – the people – the city - all people**
* **Outer Court (aka. Court of women) – the gathering place**
* **Inner Court (just outside temple)**

**One way in and one way out – no other way, one door**

**Large altar where animals were sacrificed and large water basin where priests were cleansed, and meat cleaned.**

* **Holy Place (sanctuary) – 12 showbreads – life and nourishment for Israel, menorah lamps (made in wood – covered in pure gold – 7 candles - represent knowledge and God’s perfection)**

**Veil (curtain) 70 ft tall separated the Holy Place from Holiest Place. Blue, Purple, Scarlet thread curtain.**

* **Most Holy Place (holy of holies) most holy place (32 X 32ft cube)**
* **Incense altar – at the entrance - worship rising to the heavens**
* **Ark of covenant - Ark of agreement / relationship (pic)**

**Gold covered Box**

**AKA Mercy Seat / type of throne / topped w/ Cherubim Rep. the glory and worship of God around the throne**

* **Stone tablets of Moses – the word of God (written by the hand of God himself - that reveals his character and holiness)**
* **Manna (bread of God) – provision of God / the word of God**
* **Aarons staff – represented their rebellion and the need for God**

**The writer says “The ark was” - past tense. Ark was taken and not replaced. At time of Christ, room was empty.**

**This system had three phases – Tent / Tabernacle/ Temple**

**In the desert a moveable tabernacle/ tent (400 yrs) // Solomon built temple on Mt Zion in Jer. (400 yrs) Destroyed by Babylonian (ark taken) // 70 yrs later Rebuilt by Zerubbabel. (500 yrs)**

**Destroyed a few years after this letter (70AD) just as prophesied. But the Temple still stood when this was written.**

**Dome of the Rock there now. Solomon's temple Brazil – Video.**

**(This was the view they had) 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.**

* **Once a year - on the Day of Atonement (day of covering) The High Priest (at that time) would enter - the most holy place.**
* **The Mercy seat (Ark) was sprinkled with blood for sins.**

**When he came out alive - they celebrated!**

* **Sacrifices: Daily for known sins - Yearly for ignorance sins**

**They both had to have faith in the sacrifice!**

**We see in this temple - pictures of their rebellion, God’s provision, God’s faithfulness, God’s justice, and forgiveness.**

**8 The Holy Spirit (God the Spirit) was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. 9 This is an illustration for the present time, (illustration = symbolic. same word for parables, Parabole – meaning a comparison. A sign to something greater) indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. (not enough to finished the job - it had to be done regularly) 10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings - external regulations applying until the time of the new order.**

**They were symbols, illustrations of something greater to come**

**(Heb 8 – a copy and a shadow)**

**(But then everything changed) 11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. (He returned to the very throne of God) 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. (He entered the holy place of the Father as a priest and with the sacrifice of himself)**

**13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, (how much more!) then, will the blood of Christ, (the cross) who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, (without sin) cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

**They had to make sacrifices daily, monthly, and yearly – goats, bulls, lambs, doves – but Jesus finished and completed it all!!**

**Notice:**

* **We are saved by a perfect Christ-**

**“Offered himself unblemished to God” - faultless, sinless!**

* **We are saved by the blood of Christ**

**“by his own blood… the blood of Christ” - Cross / sacrifice!**

**What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

* **We are saved completely by Christ**

**“once for all” - Paid in full! Sufficient completely!**

* **We are saved through the Holy Spirit to Christ**

**“through the eternal Spirit” - work of the HS (depravity)**

* **We are saved eternally with Christ**

**“thus obtaining eternal redemption” - Eternal salvation by faith**

**Jesus’ blood was - once for all - for both known sins and ignorant sins (you don’t have to list every sin you can think – unless you are led to) As it was for them - it is applied by faith in the sacrifice.**

**The cross is more than jewelry – a style – a symbol – a phrase! It is life to all who look to it – and believe in what happened there! It was that sacrifice! It was that blood! Blood of Jesus!**

**That OT temple was actually a picture of the gospel!**

**Everything the Temple was - Jesus is, and more**

**Write next to each point from the System- Jesus**

**1. Jesus is the presence of God – The very Tent / Tabernacle / Temple**

**It is through Jesus that God dwell's with us again. The Stone Word & ARK became flesh & walked w/ us. God literally tabernacled with us!**

**While they and some still today look for a building - John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (Tented – tabernacled) We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (God becomes man)**

**\* Outside the Tabernacle – the camp / the city (= world) - they enter**

**\* The Outer Court – one way in…**

**2. Jesus is the one door to the throne (John 10:9 – the door, John 14:6)**

**Only one way into the temple = Jesus the Only way in. It is thru Jesus where we find God - World need only to look to Jesus -**

**3. Jesus is the true sacrifice – The Bronze Altar = the cross**

**Thru the sacrifice of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sin. Blood shed once for all! Thru Jesus that man finds peace w/ God.**

**John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”**

**Jesus the sacrifice, and where we die to ourselves to follow Jesus!**

**4. Jesus is our cleansing – The Water basin = cleaning and baptism**

**Blood’s cleansing work in our life - sym. by baptism – only then do we proceed into the Holy Place.**

**5. Jesus is our salvation – The Holy Place = our salvation**

**\*Jesus our daily access to the Father. We are priests in Christ.**

**\*Jesus is the Menorah candles – the illumination of truth and God’s word – and as Christ in our life is reflected and burns in us.**

**\*Jesus is the showbread - Jesus the bread of Life - the Word of God**

**\*Jesus is the incense altar – the place of worship – where we humbly life out praise to God.**

**6. Jesus is our eternal redemption – The Most Holy Place = Heaven**

**Passing through the 2nd veil – a Christian’s death, we will enter the very throne of God.**

**7. Like the Temple - Jesus is to be the center of our life**

**A walk with God is not a book, a class, church, or ritual – it’s a way of life - walking daily w/ Jesus, dwelling w/ Him as the center of life**

**Notice no one walked into the dwelling place of God without a death. The priests = sacrifice // Jesus = himself // We too = we also are to die to self – to sacrifice our life.**

**The Entire system was a glimpse of Jesus and the gospel!!**

**Jesus is the temple fulfilled, we don't need to go there, we go to Jesus!**

**God 1st dwelled in the Garden / then a Tent / then the Tabernacle / then the Temple / and now in a new temple… He now has a new house. YOU**

**Ezekiel prophesied of a temple made of living stones – Peter mentions it**

**1 Peter 2:5 - You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house**

**Eph 3:17 says - Christ dwells (tabernacles) in your hearts through faith.**

**1 Corinthians 3:16 Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? - Then - 1 Corinthians 6:19 - 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.**

**Jesus is that temple. And now those who are his, are the temple of God. His new tabernacle - walking and dwelling among people - being Jesus to those around us. At work, street, school - His Body.**

**“Jesus is great - but my sin. I’ve said and done bad things, secrets…”**

**Three words I want to end with – HOW MUCH MORE!!!**

**Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

**“Cleanse your conscience” – there is mercy for your memories! The things you have done, they haunt you – condemn you! But “how much more – the blood of Christ!”**

**Check out our response to this great eternal redemption,**

**“so that we may serve the living God!”**

**15 For this reason (the blood of the cross) Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, (old way and temple is now obsolete – Jesus finished it – Heb 8) that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance (kingdom of heaven and relationship with God) - now that he (Jesus) has died as a ransom (same word as redemption) to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.**

* **Ransom – payment of release – redemption.**

**Every payment for sin was made. Paid in full!**

**Do you hear the HS calling you?**

**The Ransom – “died as a ransom” (redemption)**

**Purchase to freedom for new ownership and freedom**

**Jesus sacrifice as payment and a substitute**

**Penal Substitutionary Atonement**

**Atonement – to cover, to propitiate, wrath receiver**

**Propitiation – Hebrews, Romans 3:25 (1:48)**

**Hebrews 9:27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment…**

**“Judgement” – you will receive the wrath or you Jesus received your wrath**

**Sounds mean and vindictive. Cosmic Child abuser – vengeful father – like a pagan deity wanting child sacrifice. Paid off with the blood of his son.**

**What this misses is the fact that Jesus was not forced or trapped, but willingly gave his life. That Jesus was God himself in the flesh, (Father, Son, HS) from all eternity in the flesh - knowing full well the end from the beginning. John 10:17-18**

**God’s justice was satisfied by God – he took it upon himself.**

**It was because of his love for us that he did this, not so that we could have his love (John 3:16)**

**False theories of the cross. Don’t let people fool you. Changing the definition and purpose of the cross.**

**Christ the victor Theory (Cristus Victor) – Jesus dies in order to break the power of Satan over our lives – to defeat the enemy and his power in our life. (Heb 2:14-15) It is biblical – but it is incomplete alone.**

**For some that means salvation, health, healing, & prosperity.**

**Moral influence Theory – an act of love – an example of love to follow – Let me show you how much I love you by dying for you.**

**Go do the same. It does not accomplish anything.**

**Jumping in to save a drowning person – verses just jumping in to show you my love. It accomplishes nothing. One is a sacrificial love – the other is pointless and has no real meaning.**

**Ransom Theory – (Matt 20:28) True as a name – but it is become a concept that the ransom was to Satan. A type pay off. It out God at the mercy of Satan. But what is often lost is the ransom is to God himself.**

**That Jesus spiritually died went to hell and suffered in hell. False – salvation was won on the cross! It is finished.**

**Paul Washer - God has saved us from himself, God has saved us by himself, God has saved us for himself**

**Each of these have verses that give us a glimpse of a nugget of truth – but oftentimes – they downplay, ignore, or intestinally remove the PSA.**

**This is what the cross was all about – with PSA the others have meaning – and purpose. Without it, the cross is pointless.**

**Yes, it was love – yes there is victory – yes it was a ransom – but ultimately it was a substitute and payment for sin.**

**The Bible is all about Jesus – He is the good news – the gospel.**

**John 1:29 – the lamb…**

**OT - he is predicted**

**Gospels – he is revealed**

**In Acts – he is preached**

**In the epistles – he is explained**

**In revelation – he is expected**

**The response – is submission**

**1 Cor 15:2-4**

**We will not be guilty of not preaching the gospel. This is our mission and purpose as a body – as a people.**

**Possible separate sermon**

**16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.**

**19 When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” 21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

**23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things (the temple and priestly order) to be purified with these sacrifices, (sprinkling of blood) but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.**

**24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. (PSA)**

**27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

**The issue of universalism – chap 10**

**The Covenant of Redemption**

**God’s love is an expression of his love within himself (God is love verse)**

**The Father loves the son – giving him an inheritance and rule over all**

**Jesus loves the father – all he does is for the glory of the Father (including the cross) out of love for the father.**

**HS loves the Father and Son – who is the expression of this love in all creation and enables the work to be known and experienced – applying redemption to those for whom Christ died.**

**It is all the work of the love God has within himself.**

**Early church heresy – Socinianism**

**Why does God need a payment to forgive sins? That is not forgiveness – that is payback. A cosmic John Wick – someone is gonna pay! Why kill anybody – just forgive.**

**Hebrews 9:22 -**

**After all is that not what God asks us to do – to freely forgive without retribution.**

**Understand this -**

**Forgiveness always require sacrifice**

**Matt 5:38-39 – If you are sinned against – justice is you slap back. Forgiveness absorbing the pain and receiving the justice they deserve. When we forgiven – we sacrifice the loss.**

**What was the sacrifice - pain and loss**

**When you are lied to / cheated / abused – the sacrifice was pain. When you are stolen from – the sacrifice is a loss. You don’t get it back – that is the sacrifice of forgiveness.**

**We see this on the cross – when we sin against God justice is required (Ro 6:23) the wages of sin is death, God’s justice and judgement. But what Jesus did was he himself (God) absorbed the justice and judgement – becoming Sin for us. So instead of us dying for our sin – Jesus dies for our sins.**