

CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

Introduction Heb. 9 : 24: Christ appears now in the presence of God for us.

In order to experience the full benefits of the Gospel, we must appreciate the work that Jesus has done for us in the past, and the work that He will do for us in the future, but most of all, we must be aware of the work that He is doing for us NOW! If Christianity is to be to us a saving, satisfying, keeping power, we must know Christ in the present tense.

When we studied "God's Bridge from Death to Life" (Lesson 6), we promised that at a later time we would come back and learn more about the sixth pillar—the Priesthood—which represents the present ministry of Christ in the Heavenly Sanctuary. No area of Bible truth is more satisfying or rewarding than this.

Discussion 1.—THE PREVIEW OF HIS PRIESTHOOD

This preview was given to us in Lesson 24, when we studied the Earthly Sanctuary and its services.

Heb. 8 : 5: The Earthly Sanctuary was the "example" and "shadow" of heavenly things.

Heb. 9 : 8, 9: The first tabernacle was a "figure" for the time then present.

We learned that the Earthly Sanctuary service was a "Telescope of faith", by which Old Testament believers could grasp the essentials of Christ's sacrifice and heavenly ministry. The value of this "telescope" is greatly increased for us by the addition of two more powerful "lenses"—the Book of Hebrews and the Book of Revelation—which are supplied in the New Testament.

When Leviticus, Hebrews and Revelation are studied together, they provide a remarkably clear and satisfying picture of the work Jesus is doing for us in Heaven now! Matt. 27 : 51: "The veil of the Temple was rent in twain."

The supernatural rending of the Temple veil at the very moment Jesus died signified that the Earthly Sanctuary had completed its work. The earthly priesthood had now been replaced by the Priesthood of Christ. From henceforth the attention of God's people must be focused upon the Heavenly reality to which the shadowy services pointed.

2.—THE PLACE OF HIS PRIESTHOOD

Heb. 9 : 24: "Into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

Heb. 9 : 12: "He entered in once into the holy place".

Heb. 8 : 1, 2: "A minister of the true tabernacle."

Heb. 8 : 5: God showed Moses a heavenly "pattern", or blueprint, from which the Earthly Sanctuary was copied.

Heb. 9 : 11: The Heavenly Sanctuary is "greater" and "more perfect" than the Earthly. Therefore, it cannot be any less real!

From these texts the conclusion is inescapable that there stands in Heaven today a "true" tabernacle—a great, original Sanctuary—of which the Earthly was merely a miniature copy, or model. Whilst it is futile to speculate about the size, materials, or appointments of the Heavenly Sanctuary, there can be no doubt whatever about its reality, or about the fact that it is the place where Jesus performs His present work for man!

3.—THE PROGRAMME OF HIS PRIESTHOOD

Obviously, this programme follows the pattern that is already familiar to us by our study of the Earthly Sanctuary.