

Bible Study Notes

2 Corinthians: Section 10

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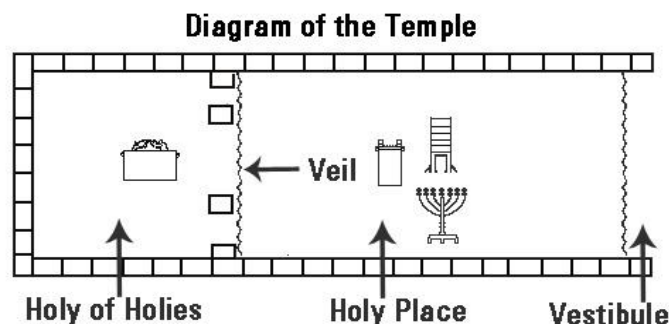
Addendum Study: Matthew 27:51

The Temple Veil

In the last section we spoke of the greater ministry that has been given to us by Jesus Christ – the ministry of the Spirit. It is a ministry that brings life and righteousness. Righteousness of the Spirit ushers us into right standing with God. No longer are we alienated or enemies of God, for in Christ we are reconciled to God through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Now, in the Spirit of God, we stand face-to-face with God, without a veil, and without condemnation.

We also discussed how the law was given with glory yet it began to fade. This was represented in how the face of Moses shown in glory after being with the Lord on Mt. Sinai. However the glory began to fade and Moses put a veil on his face. In addition, the Scripture passage discussed how the faces of the Jews were veiled from seeing Christ in the old covenant. However, when a person comes to Christ the veil is taken away. For further review, see [Previous Section](#).

Another demonstration of this reality happened on the day that Christ was crucified. The Scriptures state that the moment Jesus died on the cross “the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split,” **Matthew 27:51**. The curtain or the veil in the temple separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest, at specific times, could go behind the veil into the presence of God in order to offer the blood sacrifice. The sanctuary of the temple was a copy or shadow of what is in heaven, cf. **Hebrews 8:5**.



It is remarkable that the exact time that Jesus died and was offered up to the Father as the atoning sacrifice for our sins was the exact time that the evening offerings for the day of Passover had begun. This was no ordinary day – it was the beginning of Passover when the Passover lamb was slain. It is undeniable that Jesus Christ is our Passover lamb, cf. **1 Corinthians 5:7b**. For further study, see [Christ Our Passover](#).

Now Jesus has become the high priest who has offered the sacrifice of himself. He is both priest and sacrifice. There is also no veil or curtain separating us from the presence of God like there was in the old system. Through the ministry of the Spirit each one of us has become a priest entering into the Holy of Holies offering up spiritual sacrifices – not of blood but of glory and thanksgiving unto God. “As you come to him, the living Stone -- rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ,” **1 Peter 2:4-5**. For further study, see [Jesus Our Great High Priest](#)

We now can enter boldly into the presence of God. I like to use the illustration of a young child who enters a room and boldly runs to their parent with joy and leaps into their lap. The loving parent welcomes the child with such joy. Now this is how it is with God through Christ, we can enter in with the same kind of boldness of a child into the welcoming arms of the Father. No longer do we have to hide under the fear of condemnation before God.

In conclusion, let the Scriptures sum up this truth:

“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 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. 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. 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! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant,” **Hebrews 9:11-15**.

In light of this truth, what would God have you do?