

For the Week Beginning April 12, 2026

“Not Able to Clear the Conscience”

✦ Hebrews 9:1-10

¹Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ²A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.

³Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴which 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.

⁵Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

⁶When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. ⁷But 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. ⁸The Holy 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 standing. ⁹This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper. ¹⁰They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings — external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

Write down 5 significant observations. Raise 2 significant questions and try to answer them.

Observations	Interpretation (Questions)	Applications

✦ Opening Question:

- What’s the difference between being near someone and having full access to them?
- Have you ever dealt with the same problem over, and over again without it truly being resolved?

✦ The Living Word: Please read our text for this week.

- Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you.
- Please narrate using your own words.

Verses 1-10

1. How does Hebrews 9:1–10 connect to the argument in Hebrews 8 about the New Covenant?

2. What does the author say about the first covenant in verse 1?

What do you think were the reasons for "the regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary"?

Verses 2-5

3. Why do you think the author describes the tabernacle in detail?

What does each item reveal about God and the gospel?

Verses 6-7

6. What do verses 6-7 teach about the access to God under the Old Covenant?

What limitations do you see? What emotional atmosphere would this system have created?

Verses 8-10

7. According to verse 8, what was the Holy Spirit indicating?

What does it mean that “the way into the holy places was not yet opened”?

8. How is the Old Covenant an "illustration" or a "symbol" according to verse 9?

What was it illustrating? What were the gifts and the sacrifices unable to do?

9. What does this passage teach about the holiness of God and the seriousness of our sin?

How does this passage prepare us to appreciate Christ’s priesthood?

✦ Living the Word/Application:

- In what ways do we rely on external religious habits for assurance?
- How are we to deal with our unclean consciences?