

Hebrews 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

The Holy Spirit 'indicating' (Greek 'dēloō' - making clear) through the tabernacle structure that 'the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.' The physical veil blocking access symbolized spiritual inaccessibility. The old covenant's very structure testified to its incompleteness - it created longing for better access that it couldn't provide. Reformed theology sees the entire OT as creating hunger for Christ.

Historical Context

The veil's function was exclusion - keeping people out of God's immediate presence due to sin. Christ's death tore the veil (Matthew 27:51), symbolizing that His sacrifice opened access to God, making the old system obsolete.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How did the old covenant's restrictions create longing for the access Christ provides?
2. What does the torn veil at Christ's death reveal about the immediate effect of His sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο	δηλοῦντος	τοῦ	πνεύματος	τοῦ	ἁγίου	μήπω
this	signifying	G3588	Ghost	G3588	The Holy	not yet
G5124	G1213		G4151		G40	G3380
πεφανερῶσθαι	τὴν	τῶν	ἁγίων	ὁδὸν	ἔτι	τῆς
made manifest	G3588	G3588	into the holiest of all	that the way	yet	G3588
G5319			G39	G3598	G2089	
πρώτης	σκηνῆς	ἐχούσης	στάσιν			
while as the first	tabernacle	was	standing			
G4413	G4633	G2192	G4714			

Additional Cross-References

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Hebrews 3:7 (Holy): Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Ephesians 2:18 (Spirit): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Hebrews 9:3 (Temple): And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

2 Peter 1:21 (Holy): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

John 10:9 (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Galatians 3:8 (Parallel theme): And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

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