



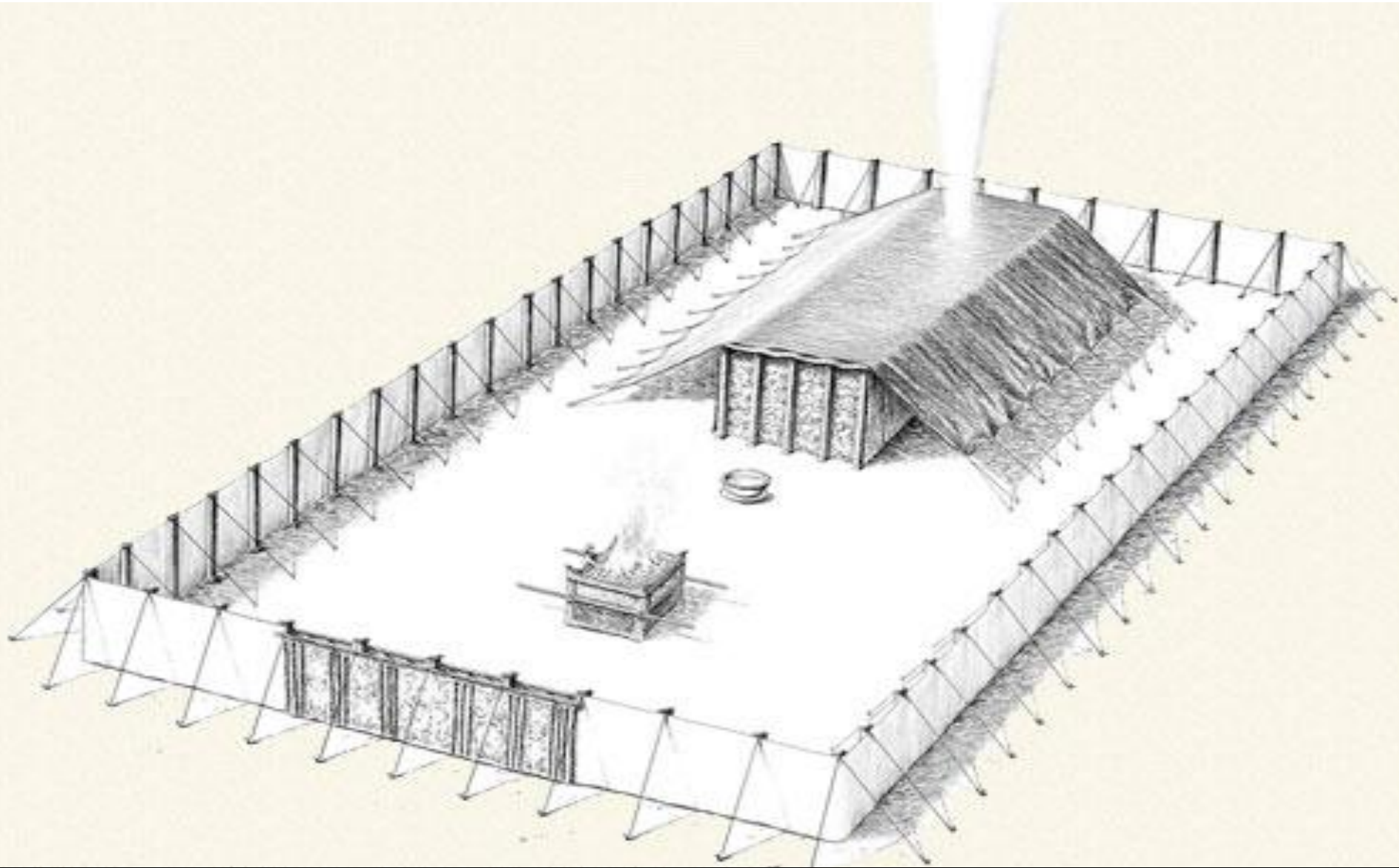
Something Better For Us

A Survey of Hebrews, Lesson #5

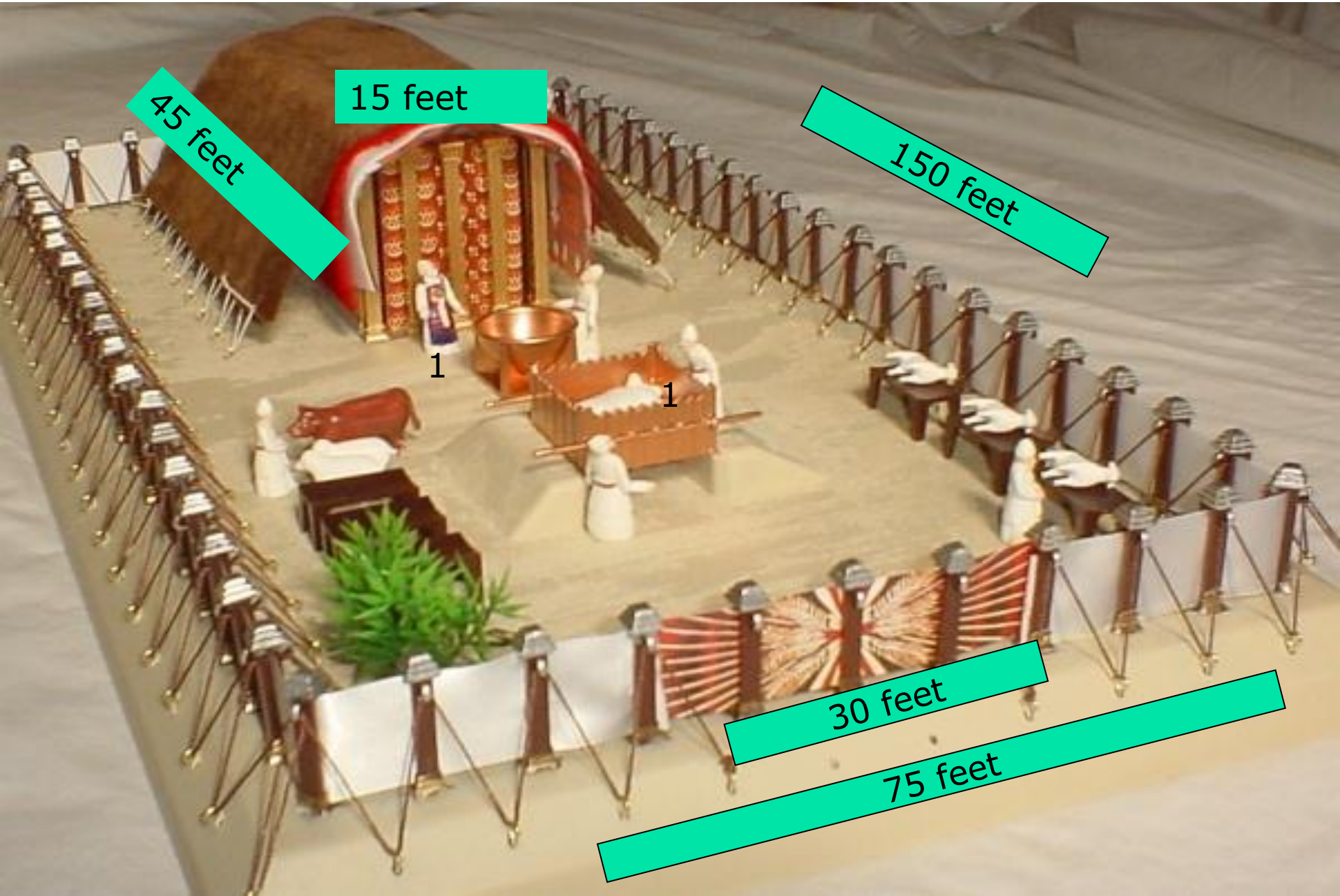
9:1 – 10:25

Jim Hoffman

The Tabernacle



The Tabernacle



45 feet

15 feet

150 feet

1

1

30 feet

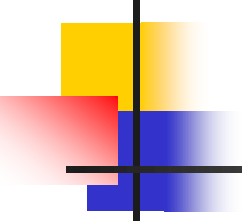
75 feet



Hebrews 9:1-5

The Earthly Tabernacle

- The are just (2) chapters in the Bible that tell us of creation compared to (50) chapters that tell us of the tabernacle so it is not insignificant.
- Many facets of the tabernacle point to it's temporary status and to Christ, the permanent way of salvation.



Hebrews 9:1-5

The Earthly Tabernacle Outer Court

- There was a single way into the tabernacle area in order to approach God.
- There was large bronze alter where animals would be fastened at four points and then killed.
- There was a laver (large basin) for cleansing of the priests as they went about their bloody work.



Hebrews 9:1-5

The Earthly Tabernacle

- The next thing in the courtyard was the tabernacle itself. A 45' X 15' X 15' tent with a veil covering the entrance to the holy place.
- Inside the holy place were:
 - A golden lampstand with (7) branches
 - A table for the showbread.
 - An alter of incense.



Hebrews 9:1-5

The Earthly Tabernacle

- Next in the tabernacle was another veil that covered the way into the holy of holies.
- Inside the holy of holies was just one piece of furniture, the ark of covenant which held, a golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod, and the stone tablets of the old covenant.
- On top of the ark of the covenant was the golden mercy seat positioned between two cherubim where God would meet with His people. Exodus 25:22



Hebrews 9:6-10

The O.T. Priestly Duties

- **The priests had daily duties of offering sacrifices for their sins and the sins of the people. These offerings took place inside the first veil in the holy place.**
- **As for the entering behind the 2nd veil into the holy of holies, only the high priest was allowed to enter and only on one day, the day of the atonement, each year.**
- **When he would enter the holy of holies he would go in with great preparation and great care.**
- **God was showing all that there is something between He and mankind, sin.**



Hebrews 9:6-10

The O.T. Priestly Duties

- **Very early on the morning of the day of atonement the high priest would cleanse himself and then put on his royal robes.**
- **He would offer sacrifices for his own sins and the sins of the people. Perhaps as many as 22 animals would be slaughtered on this bloody morning.**
- **Then the high priest would cleanse himself again and exchange his royal robes for a pure white set.**
- **He then entered the holy of holies with burning incense and blood that would be sprinkled on the mercy seat.**



Hebrews 9:6-10

The O.T. Priestly Duties

- **The priest would do his work quickly behind the 2nd veil because it was a dangerous time for him.**
- **When he came out of the holy of holies there would always be (2) goats waiting for him.**
- **One of the goats was slaughtered and its blood was caught in a bowl.**
- **The high priest would re-enter the holy of holies and sprinkle the blood of the goat on the mercy seat before exiting quickly again.**



Hebrews 9:6-10

The O.T. Priestly Duties

- **When the priest came out the second time he would place his hand on the other goat and it would be taken out deep into the wilderness to be let go.**
- **The 2nd goat, the scapegoat, was carrying the sins of the people out away from the presence of God so they could be neither seen nor remembered. (symbolically)**
- **Then the high priest would put his royal robes back on signifying the end of the ceremony.**



Hebrews 9:6-10

What does it all mean?

- **It means that the way into the presence of God was still uncertain and very limited.**
- **It means that what was played out was important, but not permanent. The very fact that the offerings never ceased give testimony to it's ineffectiveness**
- **It means that the Israelites were never assured of forgiveness because the scapegoat could return carrying those sins back into sight.**
- **It means that God was painting a picture of what Christ would one day do in laying aside His outer garments of glory in order to do sacrifice for us.**



Hebrews 9:6-10

What does it all mean?

- Interestingly enough, on the day that Jesus died one of the events recorded for us was that the veil on the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom.
- The picture could not be more clear; the Lamb of God willingly laid down His life and the Great High Priest of God was entering into the presence of God carrying His own blood into the true holy of holies.
- No more would there be a veil between us; the work of redemption was finished; let the fellowship begin to flow with free and open access to God for all who believe.

Hebrews 9:11

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. NKJV

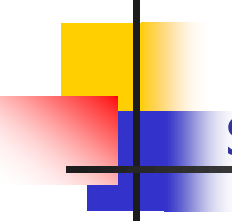
- The better priest, has a better tabernacle as it was not made with the hands of man and earthly materials, but was made by God with heavenly materials.
- The good things to come speak of the time we are now in, the day that we are allowed to approach the throne of grace without a lot of ceremony and ritual.
- That access was purchased for us at great expense, but the price paid was of more value than all of the O.T. rituals.

Hebrews 9:12

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. NKJV

- The better priest entered the better tabernacle with a better sacrifice.
- He did not enter with the blood of animals, but with his own.
- In addition, the better sacrifice purchased a better pardon in that it was a once for all offering that settles the redemption issue for all time for those who believe.

Hebrews 9:13-14



13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? NKJV

- If the blood of animals had some positive effect upon those who offered the sacrifices, then surely the blood of the Christ can accomplish much more.
- The O.T. sacrifices did some covering up on the outside, but the blood of Christ cleanses us inside and out.
- In fact, the effect of Christ's sacrifice in our place is that we become new creations who are able to serve God instead of standing back wondering if we will be accepted.



The Reasons for Messiah's Death.

- A testament presupposes death. (Verse #15)
- Forgiveness demands blood. (Verses #16-22)
- Judgment demands a substitute. (Verses 23-28)



The Reasons for Messiah's Death.

- If the old covenant was ratified by the blood of animals by Moses, is it so hard to imagine that the better covenant would also be ratified by the blood of the better sacrifice?
- The messy, bloody, O.T. sacrificial system served as a constant reminder that death is the result of sin and that sin is an affront to a holy God.



The Reasons for Messiah's Death.

- Again we see that the better priest entered into the better sanctuary to offer a better sacrifice.
- The O.T. high priest entered into the presence of God with the blood of others; Jesus entered into the presence of God offering His own blood to make atonement for our sins.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. NKJV

- Everyone has an appointment with death. It's simply a matter of when and how. (one generation will be spared)
- Christ also had a divinely appointed death, but His death was solely so that we could live.
- When the O.T. high priest re-appeared from the holy of holies it was known that the sacrifice was accepted; when Jesus returns for us it will be one more confirmation of the acceptability of His offering.

Hebrews 10:1

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make

those who approach perfect. NKJV

- What a tiresome picture. (continually year after year)
- Israel went through the rigors and prescriptions of the O.T. system, but never had the assurance that they could approach God again.
- What they were witnessing was just a shadow of what God really had in mind.

Animal Sacrifices Vs The Sacrifice of Christ

- 1) For this reason it **can never**, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, **make perfect** those who draw near to worship
- 14) because by one sacrifice **he has made perfect** forever those who are being made holy.

...

Animal Sacrifices Vs The Sacrifice of Christ

- 3) But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,
- 17) Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."



Animal Sacrifices Vs The Sacrifice of Christ

- **11) Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**
- **12) But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. 13) Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, 14) because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

Hebrews 10:10

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering
of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **NKJV**

- If verse #1 was tiring, then verse #10 gives us rest.
- What the O.T. Jew had repeatedly hoped for from the old covenant became a finished work under the new covenant.
- What all of the animal carcasses could not accomplish after years of sacrifice and stacks of bodies, Jesus accomplished on His first try.



Notice how obvious God made it for His people.

- Verses #5-7 is a quote from Psalm 40.
 - Sacrifices and offerings were no more desirable to God than they would have been to Israel.
 - God took no pleasure in all of those animals being slaughtered to cover the sins of men.
 - There is a shadow of one coming for the express purpose of doing God's will.



Notice how obvious God made it for His people.

- Verse #16 is a quote of Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - There was coming a new covenant by God.
 - The new covenant was going to be much different than the old.
 - It would not be written on stone, but would be written in the hearts of God's people.



Because Jesus has mediated a new covenant,

- Let us draw near to God.
 - How different from the 'stay back' economy of the old covenant.
 - And now we can approach God freely because we have been cleansed inside and out.
 - Don't ever take this access for granted.



Because Jesus has mediated a new covenant,

- Let us hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering.
 - We have no excuse for not standing strong in our faith.
 - We rest in a completed work of redemption.



Because Jesus has mediated a new covenant,

- Let us consider one another to encourage each of us on to good works and good service.
 - Pray for each other that we might all be fruitful sons of the living God.
 - One way this is done is by assembling for worship and fellowship regularly.
 - How strong is your faith if you have only a half-hearted interest?



Truths that Transform

- God was revealing His plan to men as they were able to bear it and all of those O.T. animal sacrifices were necessary preparation for the Lamb of God who would, not just cover, but take away the sins of the world.
- We all have an appointment with death, but the fear is gone because Jesus kept His divine appointment with death.
- Because we are redeemed at such a great cost, we now have responsibility to make full use of the life we've been given. (let us, let us, let us)