

Appendix 1

Sanctuary Terminology in Heb 8-9

There is a question how to translate certain terms in Heb 8-9 referring to the sanctuary.¹ The following summaries are based on NIV, used in this paper. At issue is whether to translate *ta hagia* as "Most Holy Place," rendering a Greek plural with an English singular, or as "holy places"--a description of the sanctuary in which the parts stand for the whole. Buchanan suggests rendering *ta hagia* more generally as "holy things," but that is too general.² The reference is to holy places--the first apartment and the second apartment--which in turn contain all the articles used in the sanctuary for worship.

What passages do and do not contain the words in question? It is not obvious from the way they are translated. In NIV "Holy Place" is translated from *hagia* (Heb 9:2) and "Most Holy Place" from *ta hagia* (9:12, 25), *hagia hagiōn* (9:3), and *tōn hagiōn* (9:8; 10:19). But "sanctuary" is also translated from *hagion* (9:1)--and from *hagia* (9:24), and from *tēs skēnēs* (8:2), and from nothing at all (8:5). So far we have been going from English to Greek. Going from Greek to English now, we get "sanctuary" (9:1) and "Most Holy Place" (9:8) from *hagion* (lit. "holy [place]") and "tabernacle" (8:2), "Holy Place" (9:2), "sanctuary" (9:24), and "Most Holy Place" from *hagia* (9:12, 25; 10:19) as well as "Most Holy Place" from *hagia hagiōn* (9:3). But we get "sanctuary" (and "tabernacle" and "room") from *skēnē* (lit. "tent") as well. To help the reader sort out this very confusing tangle of words I offer two tables below. Table 1 starts with NIV's English renderings and goes from them to Greek, Syriac, and Latin. Table 2 presents the same facts in Greek to English order, with Syriac and Latin again as a cross reference.

In format, tables 1-2 below correspond to tables 1-4 in my earlier paper entitled, "A Context for the Sanctuary Terminology of Ezek 41,"³ where similar data were presented on the sanctuary terminology in Exod 25-40; Lev 16; 1 Kgs 6-8; and Ezek 41.

¹See also Heb 10:19 where we have English "Most Holy Place," Greek *tōn hagiōn*, Syriac *d^ebēt qūdšē*, and Latin *sanctorum*.

²For the bibliographical note on Buchanan see n. 2 of the present paper. The Greek plural article without a noun can be used idiomatically, as in Luke 2:49 ("Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house [*en tois tou patros mou*]?"), lit. "in my Father's things" or "about by Father's things." And here we have *ta hagia*, lit. "the holy things." But in both cases the reference is to a house and not to things in general. The KJV rendering ("Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?") misses this important point. NIV has captured the meaning correctly.

³*Historicism* No. 20/Oct 89, see pp. 54-68.

Table 1
Sanctuary Terminology in Hebrews 8-9
Arranged in English (NIV) Order

Ref	Greek	Syriac	Latin
Holy Place			
9:2	hagia	bēt qūdšā	sancta
Inner Room			
9:7	tēn deutron	l ^e mašk ^e nā . . . dall ^e gaw	secundo
Holy Place			
9:3	hagia hagiōn	q ^e dūš qūdšē	sancta sanctorm
9:8	tōn hagiōn	d ^e qaddiše	sanctorum
9:12	ta hagia	l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sancta
9:25	ta hagia	l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sancta
Outer Room			
9:6	tēn prōtēn skēnēn	wal ^e mašk ^e nā barrāyā	priori . . . tabernaculo
Room			
9:3	skēnē	mašk ^e nā . . . gawwāyā	secundum tabernaculum
Sanctuary			
8:2	tēs skēnēs	d ^e bēt qūdšā	sanctorum
8:5	. . . ¹
9:1	hagion kosmikon	ūbēt qūdšā	sanctum
9:24	hagia	l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sanctis
Tabernacle			
8:2	tōn hagiōn	wadd ^e mašk ^e nā	tabernaculi
8:5	tēn skēnēn	mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum
9:2	skēnē . . . hē prōtē	mašk ^e nā . . . qadmāyā	tabernaculum . . . primum
9:8	tēs prōtēs skēnēs	l ^e mašk ^e nā qadmāyā	priore tabernaculo
9:11	tēs skēnēs	l ^e mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum
9:21	tēn skēnēn	mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum

¹ The word "sanctuary" was inserted in NIV.

Table 2
Sanctuary Terminology in Hebrews 8-9
Arranged in Greek Order

Ref	Greek	English	Syriac	Latin
hagia/ta hagia				
9:2	hagia		bēt qūdšā	sancta
9:12	ta hagia		l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sancta
9:24	hagia		l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sanctis
9:25	ta hagia		l ^e bēt maqd ^e šā	sancta
hagia hagiōn				
9:3	hagia hagiōn		q ^e dūš qūdšē	sancta sanctorum
hagion kosmikon				
9:1	hagion kosmikon		ūbēt qūdšā	sanctum
tōn hagiōn				
8:2	tōn hagiōn		wadd ^e mašk ^e nā	tabernaculi
9:8	tōn hagiōn		d ^e qaddišē	sanctorum
skēnē/tēs skēnēs/tēn skēnēn				
9:3	skēnē		mašk ^e nā . . . gawwāyā	secundum tabernaculum
8:2	tēs skēnēs		d ^e bēt qūdšā	sanctorum
8:5	tēn skēnēn		mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum
9:11	tēs skēnēs		l ^e mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum
9:21	tēn skēnēn		mašk ^e nā	tabernaculum
skēnē . . . prōtē/prōtēs skēnēs/prōtēn skēnēn				
9:2	skēnē . . . hē prōtē		mašk ^e nā . . . qadmāyā	tabernaculum . . . primum
9:6	tēn prōtēn skēnēn		wal ^e mašk ^e nā barrāyā	priori . . . tabernaculo
9:8	tēs prōtēs skēnēs		l ^e mašk ^e nā qadmāyā	priore tabernaculo
tēn deutron				
9:7	tēn deutron		l ^e mašk ^e nā . . . dall ^e gaw	secundo