

JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 7

A 'Better' Sacrifice

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

• Week 1:	Theme, Background and Overview	1:1 – 1:3
• Week 2:	Superiority of the Son to Angels	1:4 – 2:18
• Week 3:	Superiority of the Son to Moses and	3:1 – 3:6
	Warning on the Danger of Disobedience	3:7 – 4:13
• Week 4:	A 'Better' Position and	4:14 – 4:16
	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 1)	5:1 – 6:12
• Week 5:	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 2)	6:13 – 7:28
• Week 6:	A 'Better' Covenant and	8:1 – 8:13
	A 'Better' Sanctuary	9:1 – 9:10
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Hebrews: A 'Better' Sacrifice

THREE RESULTS OF THE MESSIAH'S SACRIFICE

I. Purification and Cleansing from Defilement

II. Ratification of a New Covenant

III. Messiah's Ministry in a New Tabernacle

<u>Purification and cleansing from defilement</u> (Heb 9:11–14)

"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. 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. 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?"

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I. Purification and cleansing from defilement

- :13 Old Testament references: Lev 16 and Num 19
  - Blood of Bulls: For the ceremonial uncleanliness of the priests
  - Blood of Goats: For the ceremonial uncleanliness of the people
  - Ashes of a Red Heifer: For cleansing defilement from touching a dead body, etc.
  - These elements only addressed ceremonial uncleanliness
- :14 Author presents conclusion in a form of rabbinic logic known as 'kal ve-chomer'
  - Argues from the lesser to the greater
  - If an animal sacrifice can do this much, how much more can the Messiah's do?
- The cleansing we receive from Jesus far transcends what animal sacrifices could do!
  - It cleanses our very conscience!
- Jesus' sacrifice is different from animal sacrifices:
  1. It was voluntary
  2. It was rational…a result of a divine purpose
  3. It was spontaneous in obedience to a command
  4. It was a moral choice
  5. It was offered *through* the Eternal Spirit
  6. It not only removed defilement, but also removed the source of defilement
     - Rom 6:6 Our 'old man' is deprived of power!

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Ratification of a New Covenant (Heb 9:15–22)

"And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."[b] 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

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II. Ratification of a New Covenant

- Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant.
- The death of Jesus made atonement for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the Old Covenant. :15

:16-17 The writer switches to the concept of a will

- A will provides for an inheritance
- A testament or will demands death
- Believers are destined to inherit a heavenly home
- The Mosaic covenant was ratified by animal blood
  - From the beginning, it was a conditional covenant
    - But it was binding until it was done away with

:18-21 Jesus offered a blood covenant with His own blood (better blood)

:22 As far as remission of sin is concerned, blood had to be shed-*for without shedding of blood there is no remission* of sins

- Forgiveness demands blood

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Ratification of a New Covenant (Heb 9:23–28)

"Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 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."

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III. Ratification of a New Covenant (Heb 9:23–28)

- The 3rd result of Jesus's sacrifice is His ministry in the New Tabernacle
- The use of blood for the way of approach was enlarged
- It was necessary to cleanse the Heavenly Tabernacle with *better* blood

- Why did the Heavenly Tabernacle need to be cleansed?
  - When Satan rebelled, he did so while in Heaven and brought sin into Heaven itself. (Isa 14:12-14; Eze 28:11-19)

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Ratification of a New Covenant (cont)

- **:24 Jesus entered boldly into the Heavenly Holy of Holies to appear openly**
  - **Contrast with the High Priest who entered secretly with his face hidden by smoke**
- **:25-26a Jesus entered with a finished atonement vs. the High Priest who had to offer sacrifices year-by-year**
- **:26b Jesus has vanquished sin forever**
  - **He achieved a total disannulling of sin**
  - **Same Greek word as 7:18 used in disannulling the Law**
- **:27-28 Jesus' first coming was to deal with sin…His second coming is to provide salvation for those that wait for Him**
  - **This will be the completion of the redemption process**

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Heb 10:1–4 ***"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. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."***

- **:1 The Law was a shadow**
  - **The Greek word is 'a pale shadow'**
  - **The Law was not a true representation; the reality was to come**
  - **It could never make *perfect* or bring to spiritual maturity**
  - **The very repetition of the sacrifices shows their insufficiency**
  - **The Law is identified as a '*shadow*' in three places:**
    - **Col 2:16, Heb 8:5, and here in Heb 10:1**

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Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will (Heb 10:1–4)

- **What did the sacrificial system do?**
  - **It merely continued to identify a need for forgiveness**
  - **It reminded them of their sin**
  - **The sins were only covered (not removed), so the sacrifices provided a reminder**
    - ***"Kafar"* is the Greek word for covering**
    - **It's the same word used when Noah covered the ark with bitumen**
    - **The wood of the ark was not taken away; it was only covered**
    - **The picture is that sin was out of God's sight so He could forgive the OT saint, but it was not removed**

- **:2-4 The context of these verses show that:**
  - **Christ's sacrifice has removed our sin**
  - **Christ's sacrifice has cleansed our conscience**
  - **We're now free (and encouraged!) to approach God to worship Him**
  - **The OT could picture forgiveness, but it could not achieve it**

Hebrews: A 'Better' Sacrifice

Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will (Heb 10:5-10)

"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

- **:5-7 God points out what He considers the acceptable sacrifice**
  - **One that comes through obedience and faith (voluntary)**
- **He never intended for the animal sacrifices to be permanent**
  - **This is shown by the fact that God prepared a human body for Himself (Ps 40:6-8)**

Hebrews: A 'Better' Sacrifice

Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will (Heb 10:8–10)

- **The sacrifice of Jesus was a voluntary sacrifice, and it came with obedience**
- **The animals did not volunteer, they were offered**
  - **So these sacrifices did not please God**
- **:8-9 Jesus took away the Mosaic Covenant (*the first*) and established the New Covenant (*the second*)**
- **Believers are beneficiaries of the fruits of His obedience**
- **:10 We have been sanctified once-for-all**
  - **This is a positional sanctification**
  - **In God's sight believers are in a permanent, continuous state of sanctification**

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Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will (Heb 10:11–14)

"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

- **:11-13 The many priests vs. the One Priest**
  1. **They were standing, but He sat down**
  2. **They sacrificed daily, but He sacrificed on only one day**
  3. **They had to offer many sacrifices, but He had to offer only one sacrifice**
  4. **They accomplished a temporary atonement, but He - a permanent, eternal one**
  5. **Their sacrifices covered sins, but His sacrifice took them away**

- **:14 His one offering perfected the saints forever!**
  - **This scripture clearly shows where justification and sanctification meet**
  - ***He has perfected forever*** **(past perfect tense…for all Eternity!)**
  - ***Those who are being sanctified*** **(present progressive passive tense)**

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Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will (Heb 10:15-18)

"But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin."

- **:16-17 The writer shows that this truth was already testified to us by the Holy Spirit through Jer 31:33-34**
  1. **Under the New Covenant there is no remembrance of sin**
  2. **There is no more consciousness of sin**

- **:18 Since Jesus brought perfection and brought complete forgiveness, sin - as far as God is concerned - cannot even be remembered**
  - **So what need is there for Levitical sacrifices?**

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SUMMARY

This is the grand finale!

- **Our sins are forgiven; there is no need for sin sacrifices!**
- **To us, this may seem a minor point, an anticlimax, something we take for granted**
- **But to our author, this is a major point, the point he has been hammering away at for four chapters!**
- **The sacrificial system is not needed any more**
- **The old covenant has been set aside**
- **It never was effective, and Christ has set us free from it!**