

Lesson 8

The Lamb Who Was Slain

Hebrews 9:1-10:18

As the Mediator of the New Covenant, Christ has promised the Holy Spirit who guides us into all Truth (John 16:13). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into His truth as you open God's Word today.

Read Hebrews 9:1-14.

Worship in the Tabernacle

Hebrews 9 begins by talking about the Tabernacle. The author did not go into very much detail about the Tabernacle because his original audience of believing Jews would have already understood and known all about it. The Israelites were instructed to build the Tabernacle as part of the Law. Later, the same general layout was given to David for the Temple in Jerusalem. Both the Tabernacle and the Temple were integral to the worship of God under the Old Covenant, the Law.

Turn to Appendix II and read about the Tabernacle. Spend some time familiarizing yourself with the Tabernacle and the uses of each of its item. It isn't an exhaustive guide by any means, but it will help you understand some of what the author of Hebrews is saying in these verses.

1. Where did the glory of the Lord dwell with Israel (Exodus 40:34 and 38)?
2. According to Exodus 40:36-37, how did the Israelites decide where they would go while they were in the Wilderness?
3. In John 1:14, the word translated "dwelt" could also be translated "tabernacled." Where did God and His glory dwell during Jesus' time on earth?

"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14b

4. According to Hebrews 9:1, where did the Israelites worship under the Old Covenant?
5. In John 4:20-24, what does Jesus tell the Samaritan woman at the well about the way that worship would change?
6. From Hebrews 9:6, how often did the priests enter the outer room of the Tabernacle, the Holy Place, and what did they do? Do you get the sense that their work was ever completely finished?
7. From Hebrews 9:9, what were the gifts and sacrifices required under the Old Covenant unable to do?
8. From Hebrews 9:10, how long were the regulations of the Old Covenant to be in effect?

Hebrews 9:11-14 uses words that would have called to mind the Day of Atonement for the Jewish believers. Each year the high priest entered the Holy of Holies with the blood of goats and calves to offer to the Lord to cleanse the high priest and all of Israel from their sins for that year (Leviticus 16). The author of Hebrews is contrasting the Day of Atonement as prescribed by the Old Covenant, with the work of Christ as the “mediator of a New Covenant” (Hebrews 9:15).

9. With that in mind, look at Hebrews 9:11-14:
 - ❖ In contrast to the high priest entering the physical Holy of Holies, where did Christ enter (verse 11)?
 - ❖ Not with the blood of goats and calves but with whose blood did He enter?
 - ❖ How many times did Jesus have to do this (Hebrews 7:27)? How does that compare with the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:34)?
 - ❖ What kind of redemption did He secure (Hebrews 9:12)?

- ❖ What did the blood of the animals cleanse? What does the blood of Christ cleanse?

What the Law did temporarily and externally, Christ does for us eternally and internally.

The Blood Sacrifice

We are coming to a part of Hebrews that is especially foreign to our western ears. The idea of blood and sacrifice was common to the original audience of this letter. We tend not to talk a lot about blood (certainly not being “sprinkled” with it), but we do recognize the significance of life. Leviticus 17:11 says: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood *by reason of the life* that makes atonement” (italics added). Keep in mind this close relationship between blood and life as we continue through Hebrews 9 and 10.

Read Hebrews 9:15-28.

10. According to Hebrews 9:18-21, how was the First Covenant put into effect? (The full account is found in Exodus 24.)
11. The words of Hebrews 9:20 are a quote from Moses in Exodus 24:8. What does Jesus say in Matthew 26:27-28?
12. How is His blood described in 1 Peter 1:17-19?
13. So why did Christ have to die? See Hebrews 9:15-17 and 9:22; Romans 3:23-25a with 6:23.

Read Hebrews 10:1-18.

14. How is the Law described in Hebrews 10:1?
15. From Hebrews 10:1-2, what evidence supports the fact that the Law did not perfect the people?

16. What were the sacrifices a reminder of in Hebrews 10:3? What was it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do (10:4)?

❖ What did the blood of Christ accomplish? See Hebrews 9:26 and Psalm 103:12.

Hebrews 10:5-9 quotes Psalm 40:6-8, which was written by David. In Hebrews, however, the words are attributed to Christ. Psalms are considered to be *Messianic Psalms* if they in some way predict or foreshadow the Messiah (Constable, 5). That seems to be the case with David's words in Psalm 40.

17. In Hebrews 10:9, what did Jesus come to do?

18. From Hebrews 10:10, what was God's will?

19. From God the Father's unspoken answer to Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39-44), do you think there was any other way than the cross for Jesus to accomplish God's will? Discuss.

20. In Hebrews 10:11-14, how do we know that Jesus' work with regard to salvation is finished?

21. Who testifies to us concerning the New Covenant according to Hebrews 10:15-16? Where does He dwell (1 Corinthians 6:19)?

22. According to Hebrews 10:17, what does Jesus do with our sins and lawless deeds?

23. From Hebrews 10:18, why is there no longer any offering for sin?

24. Luke 22:17-20 is another account of the Last Supper, where Jesus introduced His blood as the blood of the New Covenant. What does the Lord ask the disciples (and future believers) to remember when they drink the cup and eat the bread?

Under the Old Covenant, the annual atonement served as a reminder of the people's sin, of the distance between the people of Israel and God. Under the New Covenant, our sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more. Christ's sacrifice brings forgiveness to all who believe. Under the Old Covenant, the rituals of sacrifice were performed to remind the people of their guilt. Under the New Covenant, we are reminded of the grace poured out by Christ upon the cross.

Prepare for Life Question:

“Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, “My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

Revelation 7:13-14

25. Have you washed your robe in the blood of the Lamb? If so, you are forgiven and redeemed. Is there any sin that you believe is not yet covered by the blood? If so, confess it now and accept the forgiveness offered perfectly and completely by the sacrifice of Christ for you.

Lecture Notes:
by Kathy Phillips