

Hebrews: Jesus is Better

Lesson 6: Behold the Lamb! Jesus is Better (November 2&3)

Read Hebrews 8:1-13

1. The Jews regarded the tabernacle (and later the temple) as the place where Heaven touched Earth, where God met with man. What do you think the author wanted his readers to understand about the tabernacle as it relates to Heaven (8:2-6)?

2. How does the quote from Jeremiah connect the covenant made with Israel to the new covenant for all who follow Christ?

3. 8:8-12 is a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 containing the prophetic announcement and definition of the new covenant and its new superior benefits. Can you fully grasp that God will NOT remember all of the sins that you have committed, even the ones you just made today and will make tomorrow?

4. What is wrong with the old covenant? Why is the new covenant so much better?

Read Hebrews 9: 1-28

5. How does a better understanding of the ritual system of the old covenant heighten our gratitude for the work of Christ in establishing the new covenant?

6. The author gave us four proofs that Christ is a better sacrifice than the animals sacrificed under the old covenant system. Fill in the Chart below contrasting the two sacrifices.

Animal Sacrifices (Incomplete/Imperfect)	Jesus (Better)
They were made every year	9:12a
Their blood gave partial redemption	9:12b
They were without external/physical blemish	9:14b
They were unable to perfect the conscience	9:14b

7. Why was blood necessary in both the old and new covenants?

8. Imagine you had to explain what 'Jesus died for us' meant to a non-Christian. How would you do it using the categories and ideas of high priest and sacrifice?

9. What do you do when you are weighed down by a guilty conscience? What should you do?

10. How is it that a cleansed conscience will enable us to serve God (Heb 9:14)? How may this be related to having God's laws written on our hearts (Heb 8:10)?

11. Verses 14 and 15 suggest the true intent of God's plan through His Son Jesus Christ. Share with the group your understanding of this "eternal inheritance" mentioned in verse 15.

12. How does understanding the laws concerning wills (9:16-17) help explain the new covenant in Christ?

13. Why was the sacrificial system necessary, what was it pointing to? What was it about Christ's sacrifice that fulfilled and completed blood sacrifice once for all?

14. How does 9:27-28 tell us Christ's work will be ultimately fulfilled?

15. How are you waiting and preparing for the return of Christ while you are still living on this earth?