

Chapter 9 of Hebrews tells us why the Old Covenant sacrifices were inadequate.

This morning we're going to take a look at how Christ's sacrifice was sufficient.

Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will

(cf. Ps 40:6-8)

The author of Hebrews was quoting from Psa 40 in Heb 10

Heb 10:5-7

5 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.'"

The first thing we notice here is that Jesus came into the world:

He sacrificed in that He became a man.

Have you ever been someplace and you can't wait to leave?

We don't always feel comfortable in certain environments.

Many people today are looking forward to the day

- when Jesus takes them out of this world.

We as believers take comfort in that Jesus prayed and prays for us!

John 17:14-15

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Jesus didn't pray that we'd be taken out,

- but that we'd be kept from the evil one.

So, we will be exposed to certain things and situations in this world,

- but thru the Holy Spirit we will be guarded.

That's why Jesus said in John 10:28,

- “No one will snatch them out of my hand.”

He will protect and guard our faith,

- but that doesn't exempt us from hardship.

We're all familiar with Peter's denial. Jesus told Peter,

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Jesus prayed for Peter.

The first sacrifice of Jesus was becoming a man.

He was subject to the same trials and temptations as we are.

Yet, we're told that He can sympathize with our weaknesses.

Heb 4:15

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus faced hunger, fatigue, emotional distress,

- fear and anguish just as we do at times.

Some may say, well, if He was God then it was easy for Him.

Well yes, He was fully God according to John 1:1 and John 1:14

He was also fully man according to Heb 2:

Heb 2:14

14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

When the angel spoke to Mary, she was told the Holy One

- who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Jesus was fully man, and yet fully God at the same time.

- But, He did not possess the
- sin-corrupted nature of man.

2 Cor 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

We were told earlier in Heb 2:18 that He (Jesus) is able to help us when we are tempted.

Heb 10:6

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.

God did not enjoy the offerings not offered in faith

- nor of those that were not willing.

I believe Cain and Abel are good examples of that.

God found offerings outside of faith to be meaningless.

Jer 7:9-10

9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, 10 and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?'

Isa 1:11

11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"

Says the Lord.

"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams

And the fat of fed cattle.

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,

Or of lambs or goats.

The NLT uses a more direct approach, "I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle."

In other words, what purpose do they serve,

- of what value are they or,
- why are you bringing them at all!

God was not rejecting the sacrifice as a system,

- but, the heart behind it.

1 Samuel 15 - Saul substitutes ritual for obedience

Psalms 51 - David recognizes sacrifice cannot cover unrepentant sin

Hosea 6 - Israel uses offerings to mask covenant unfaithfulness

Hebrews 10 - Jewish believers tempted to trust rituals instead of Christ

In each example, sacrifice is treated as a replacement for obedience.

God cares more about the heart than He does sacrifice.

What God desires most is a repentant heart from those who are far from Him.

Joel 2:12-13

12 "Now, therefore," says the Lord,
 "Turn to Me with all your heart,
 With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."
 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments;
 Return to the Lord your God,
 For He is gracious and merciful,
 Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
 And He relents from doing harm.

Hosea prophesied during a time of moral, political and spiritual collapse.

Israel was taking God's blessings

- and attributing those blessings to Baal.

Yet, they continued in their temple sacrifices as if all was well.

But there was something terribly wrong.

Hos 6:1-2

1 Come, and let us return to the Lord;
 For He has torn, but He will heal us;
 He has stricken, but He will bind us up.
 2 After two days He will revive us;
 On the third day He will raise us up,
 That we may live in His sight.

Now, this may sound good, let's come to the Lord

- and He will do all of these things for us.

The motives of people are not always good.

Israel's repentance was emotional and temporary.

- It was motivated by relief from judgement,
- not for their love of God.

They were seeking restoration, not transformation.

Hos 6:4

4 "O Ephraim, what shall I do to you?
O Judah, what shall I do to you?
For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud,
And like the early dew it goes away.

Then we see God's charge to them in verse 6:

Hos 6:6

6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Mercy as used here is unfailing love,

God wanted a covenant relationship.

Verse 6 also speaks of a knowledge of God.

- Do you know God or do you simply
- have information about God?

Having information doesn't necessarily mean knowledge.

"I desire mercy and not sacrifice,"

- This doesn't mean that God was abolishing sacrifices.

God does not want sacrifice if there is no repentance,

The same message can be found in 1 Sam 15:22.

1 Sam 15:22

22 But Samuel replied,

"What is more pleasing to the Lord:
your burnt offerings and sacrifices
or your obedience to his voice?
Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,
and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

God desires obedience.

We see the fulfillment of the principle of 1 Sam 15:22 in:

Heb 10:7

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.'"

What Isarel failed to do and what Saul failed to do, Jesus did perfectly.

What the scriptures are saying is that obedience matters more than sacrifice.

I believe the volume of the book is from old to new, and it all points to Jesus.

On the Emmaus road, Jesus came across two men,

- Cleopas and another who were talking about
- the things which had taken place.

They didn't recognize Jesus, then He began to speak to them,

Luke 24:27

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

It's all about Jesus!

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.

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.

Notice again in verse 9, "I have come to do Your will, O God."

Christ's sacrifice did away with the Old Covenant.

Why, that He may establish the second, the new covenant.

- The first completed its purpose.

The word "establish" means to set in place permanently,

- to make stand, to set or to place.

Rom 10:3

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness,

To those seeking to establish their own righteousness by keeping the law, Paul says:

(they) have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

We should never view this as something we've achieved,

- but as something we've received
- thru faith in Christ.

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

Which will? This takes us back to the previous 3 verses

- of God's redemptive will accomplished
- thru Christ's perfect obedience.

Notice we have been sanctified. This is a perfect tense verb

- meaning a completed action.

We have been sanctified in Christ, this is a positional sanctification.

This comes thru the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

So, God commands obedience, Israel failed at that.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (the priest could never take away sins. The fact that the priest is continually standing shows his work was never finished whereas, Jesus is seen as sitting)

12 But this Man (Jesus), 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.

As we read those verses, the focus shifts from atonement to enthronement.

- Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

The most quoted verse in the bible is Psa 110:1

Ps 110:1

1 The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Who are those enemies? Death, sin, Satan and his demons. All who have rebelled against God.

Notice what Christ has done thru His sacrifice:

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

It's by one offering that you and I are perfected forever.

If you've given your life to Christ,

- then you're forever perfected in the sight of God.

This speaks of a positional righteousness.

The moment we surrendered to Christ, we became His child.

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

Notice three promises in the next 3 verses.

The Holy Spirit is speaking and quoting from Jer 31

- reiterating the New Covenant
- spoken of in the OT by Jeremiah,

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." (quoted from Jer 31:33-34) 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

The first promise is in verse 16 of a new covenant:

God will write His law into their hearts and minds.

Historically, the promise was to Israel and Judah,

- God's covenant people.

But the author of Hebrews doesn't stop there.

- He consistently applies the promise from Jeremiah
- to those redeemed by the blood of Christ.

For example, in Heb 10:10 he addresses the sanctified,

- In Heb 10:14, those perfected by His sacrifice,
- And in verse 17, those whose sins are forgiven.

This includes both Jew and Gentile who have surrendered to Christ.

Rom 10:12-13

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Gal 3:20

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The second promise is that forgiveness is complete and final:

When Christ forgives us, we are completely forgiven, therefore, we too are to forgive others.

Eph 4:32

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Col 3:13

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Matt 18:21

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

We're familiar with the parable in Matt 18, a servant owes money to his master

- and he couldn't repay,
- so he asked his master
- to have patience.

The master was moved with compassion,

- he released the servant and forgave him the debt.

But then the servant went out and found someone that owed him money

- so he had that person thrown into prison.

The first master upon hearing this

- then has the original servant delivered to the torturers
- until he should pay all that was due him.

The parable closes by Jesus saying:

Matt 18:35

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Notice the pattern in the scriptures,

- received forgiveness,
- extended forgiveness.

When we've been forgiven, we are forgiven completely.

The third promise is in verse 18:

Heb 10:18

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

For those whose sins are forgiven, there is no need for further sacrifice.

The promise is that your sins are forgiven in Jesus,

Verse 18 shows that thru the sacrifice of Jesus

- our sins are fully forgiven,
- there is no longer a need
- for sacrifice for our sins.

The end of verse 18 is the end of the doctrinal section of Hebrews.

It's at this point that the arguments for the superiority of Christ cease.