

ENTER JESUS

Hebrews 9:1-14

At the outset of this book study, we saw that

Jesus is **SUPERIOR TO THE PROPHETS**, they spoke the Word, and **HE WAS THE WORD (John 1:1)**.

Jesus is **SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS**. He's the **ANGEL-MAKER** Himself.

Chapter three revealed that Jesus is **GREATER THAN MOSES**. Moses was the **SERVANT** of God, but Jesus is the **SON** of God.

Chapters four through seven explain that Jesus is **SUPERIOR TO THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD**, being a high priest of the order of Melchizedek. Jesus lives to mediate the new covenant **FOREVER**.

Chapter eight concludes that Jesus is the **MEDIATOR OF A SUPERIOR COVENANT.**

NOTE that **PREVIOUS COVENANTS WEREN'T BAD** and this new one was good. They were instituted by God too, and He does nothing badly. In fact, **EACH TIME GOD INTRODUCED A COVENANT,** it wasn't because the one He previously made was faulty; **IT WAS BECAUSE HUMANITY FAILED TO UPHOLD THE PREVIOUS ONE.**

COVENANTS 101

Each time God made a covenant with humanity, **HE REVEALED MORE OF WHO HE WAS** and who we were to be to Him.

When God made a covenant, He **USHERED IN A PERIOD OF TIME** in which humanity was responsible to **OBEY GOD IN A NEWLY REVEALED WAY.**

ENTER (GO INTO) EDEN. God revealed Himself to Adam and Eve in the Garden, instructing them on how to obey Him. **DON'T EAT FROM THAT TREE!** When they disobeyed, they were expelled from the Garden and cursed.

ENTER ADAM. Holding Adam responsible for the act of disobedience, God expelled the couple, cursing them and the earth. Things would be hard now, but God would send a Savior to make things right. Knowing good and evil, Adam and Eve were now to **LET THEIR CONSCIENCE GUIDE THEM.**

When God clothed Adam and Eve in **ANIMAL SKINS**—sin brought **DEATH**—He showed them that **they were ONLY CAPABLE OF COMMITTING SIN, NOT FIXING IT.**

Humanity deteriorated further until God **JUDGED** them with the **FLOOD.**

ENTER NOAH. God revealed more of Himself to Noah. Civil law was instituted; **GOD'S AUTHORITY WAS NOW VISIBLE THROUGH MAN**, meting out punishment for the ungodly. They were also commanded to **SPREAD OUT AND FILL THE EARTH**, spreading God's will throughout. Once again

humanity's rebellion demanded punishment, and they were **JUDGED** at **BABEL**.

ENTER ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB (ISRAEL). God then revealed Himself to Abram, who became Abraham. Abraham and the rest of the patriarchs were commanded to trust Him by **REMAINING IN THE LAND** God showed them no matter what. When they too failed to do so, the **JUDGMENT** was 400 years of **SLAVERY** in Egypt.

You see how that works?

Edenic Covenant. **DISOBEDIENCE**. Judgment: expelled from the Garden

Adamic Covenant. Continued **DISOBEDIENCE**. Judgment: worldwide flood

Noahic Covenant. **DISOBEDIENCE**. Judgment: Babel

Abrahamic Covenant. **DISOBEDIENCE**. Judgment: 400 years
bondage in Egypt

See the common theme? **DISOBEDIENCE. SIN.**

ENTER MOSES.

Hebrews 9:1-5

1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

The description of the **TABERNACLE SETUP** given here is an example of the **REGULATIONS FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**.

Verse four says that the Most Holy Place **HAS** the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant. In multiple satellite passages, the ark of the covenant is always found in the Most Holy Place, and when those passages mention the **ALTAR OF INCENSE**, they place it **OUTSIDE THE MOST HOLY PLACE** in the same area as the lampstand and the table of the bread of the Presence.

The writer, therefore, in saying that the Most Holy Place, is seemingly speaking of the **RITUAL CONNECTION** the altar of incense to the Most Holy Place, **NOT ITS ACTUAL LOCATION**.

The writer goes into **MODERATE DETAIL** of the tabernacle; at the end of that discourse, however, he claims that **NOW ISN'T THE TIME** to go into further detail of those things. He's got **MORE PRESSING TRUTHS** than the location and significance of the tabernacle fixtures.

WORSHIP REGULATIONS continue. With the tabernacle set up just so...

Hebrews 9:6

These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,

The priests entered **CONTINUALLY**.

AARON was of the tribe of **LEVI**, and out of all of his brothers, he was chosen to perform the services of the tabernacle— everything having to do with the furnishings of the sanctuary; that was the significance of his staff budding and being stored in the Ark of the Covenant. Aaron's brothers (the rest of the tribe of Levi) could help with everything else as long as it didn't involve **THE TABERNACLE FURNISHINGS**. Those were **THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AARON AND HIS SONS ALONE**.

An example of daily service that the priests were responsible for is seen in **Numbers 28:3...**

And you shall say to them, This is the food offering that you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs a year old without blemish, day by day, as a regular offering.

Such service happened **EVERY. SINGLE. DAY...BY SOMEONE ELSE.**

NOT YOU.

Hebrews 9:7

but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

Don't get hung up on *unintentional sins* or sins "*committed in ignorance,*" which has long led students of the Bible to conclude that NO OFFERING exists FOR WILLFUL SIN (wrong).

However, **LEVITICUS 16** makes **NO DISTINCTION** between ignorant and willful sin. Furthermore, since these ancient sacrifices were a foreshadowing of Messiah's sacrifice, that would mean that His death on the cross doesn't remove sin committed willfully.

Isn't there a bit of **IGNORANCE IN ALL** commission of **SIN**? If we fully understood the temptation to sin in the moment, seeing sin for what it is, we would never commit it, right?

Believe it or not, there is **SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT SIN**.

It **LOOKS** good. We see the offer of pleasure and satisfaction, but as soon as we **TAKE THE BAIT**, the devil sets the hook, saying, "**GOTCHA!**"

Moving on...

Hebrews 9:7

but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

It says that the **HIGH PRIEST ENTERED ANNUALLY** on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

He could enter **ONLY THAT DAY**, and **ONLY BY BLOOD** (the blood of a bull for himself, and the blood of a goat for the Nation).

See, even **HE WASN'T FIT TO ENTER**. He went behind the veil just as much for himself as he went for the Nation; **THE SERVICE** he was performing **WAS FOR HIM TOO**.

And **THINK ABOUT WHAT HE WAS DOING**.

Remember **WHAT WAS IN THE ARK**.

He was taking the **BLOOD** of the bull and the goat behind the veil and putting it **ON THE MERCY SEAT**, the "lid" of the ark of the covenant which contained the golden jar of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

He was literally **covering the law he himself had broken** with the blood.

ONLY THE HIGH PRIEST COULD perform this service.

No one else could.

And then **HE DID IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!**

The problem was that **IT WASN'T PERFECT.**

(1) It was the **BLOOD OF ANIMALS,**

(2) shed and administered **BY A SINNER,** and

(3) applied to **A COPY** of what was actually in heaven year after year after year...

So why do it?!

Israel needed to see the **COST OF THEIR SIN.**

They needed to see the **REALITY OF SIN,** even if it was merely a life-size illustration of what was required behind the natural scene.

They needed to know that **SOMETHING SIMILAR AND YET COMPLETELY SUPERIOR HAD TO TAKE PLACE** in heaven for things to ever be different.

Keep reading...

Hebrews 9:8-9

8 By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing 9 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,

The **“FIRST SECTION,”** or literally the **“FIRST TABERNACLE”** here is symbolic of the Old Testament means of approaching God.

Under that Old Testament **SYSTEM OF APPROACHING GOD,** the way wasn't open because the worshiper's **CONSCIENCE WASN'T CLEAN.**

Hebrews 9:10

but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

"...until the time of reformation," literally in the Greek, "until the time of ***SETTING THINGS RIGHT.***"

These sacrifices could only make one **RITUALLY PURE**, and that **WASN'T PURE ENOUGH** to encounter God.

They were only **PURE ENOUGH TO KEEP DOING THE RITUALS.**

They were only pure enough to keep **ALMOST ENCOUNTERING GOD.**

The animal blood made folks ritually pure, **LIKE PUTTING ON A DINNER JACKET** for a formal dinner; however, it **DIDN'T FIX THE PROBLEM**. If you remove the jacket...you see what's underneath (*remove jacket*).

What's **INSIDE** is what's real. This is the **REAL ME**.

As long as I looked like this, God said, "No. **YOU CAN'T COME IN**. You can't get close," but He said, "**I'M GOING TO SET THINGS RIGHT.**"

You see, all they could do was **KEEP PUTTING ON THE DINNER JACKET** again and again...

ENTER JESUS.

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not

by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

In the NET Bible, the powerful, cascading verbiage reads, "But now **CHRIST HAS COME...PASSED THROUGH...ENTERED ONCE FOR ALL...SECURED ETERNAL REDEMPTION...**"

Jesus entered **ONCE FOR ALL** by **HIS OWN BLOOD**.

That verb "secured" occurs in the Greek in what's called the "middle voice," which makes it originally read, "**HE AND NO OTHER** secured."

HE DID WHAT EVERYONE BEFORE HIM COULDN'T!

HOW did He do it? What made Him **QUALIFIED???**

Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

HE OFFERED HIMSELF **WITHOUT BLEMISH.**

Remember what I said earlier. The high priest literally covered **THE LAW HE HAD BROKEN** with animal blood.

NOW PICTURE JESUS!

He covered the perfect law that **WE HAD BROKEN** with **HIS OWN PERFECT BLOOD FOR US!**

HE DIDN'T HAND ME ANOTHER JACKET(!!!), another **RITUAL** to constantly perform to cover up the problem.

HE GOT RID OF THE PROBLEM!!!

Remove tattered shirt.

HE AND HE ALONE DID IT!!!

Hebrews 9:10

but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

Remember verse ten. “...the time of reformation” is the “time of **SETTING THINGS RIGHT.**”

HE SET THINGS RIGHT! We were always MEANT TO BE HIS!

We were meant to **CHOOSE HIM,**

SERVE HIM,

and have **INTIMACY WITH HIM FOREVER!**

HE SET THINGS RIGHT!!!

But also look back at verse 14.

Hebrews 9:14

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Note the **CONTRAST**: Jesus cleansed us from **DEAD** works to serve the **LIVING** God.

He cleansed our consciences from **DEAD WORKS,**

EVERYTHING WE DID WHEN WE WERE LOST, either in **REBELLION** or in **HOPES OF EARNING SALVATION.**

Those works **ONLY CONDEMNED US**; they could never merit salvation no matter how “good” they were perceived to be.

They were **WORTHLESS** to a living God, no matter how well-intentioned.

YOU AND I WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH to serve Him or get close to Him, **BUT**

When He offered up **HIS BLOOD ON THE MERCY SEAT**, He forever **MADE A WAY** for us to encounter God.

NOW WE'RE CLEAN ON THE INSIDE! Our works are no longer dead!

Now you can **MEANINGFULLY SERVE** the Lord!

NO MORE ALMOST being close to Him!

He's cleansed us, and **WE GET TO SERVE HIM! WE GET TO WORSHIP HIM FULLY!!!**

WHICH...!

By the way, is the **SAME WORD** in the Greek. The **NOUN** used for "**WORSHIP**" in **VERSE ONE** is the **SAME WORD** used for "**DUTIES**" in **VERSE SIX**. It's **VERB FORM** is translated "**SERVE**" in **VERSE FOURTEEN**.

Do you get that?! Now **WE CAN DO** what was **FORMERLY OFF LIMITS!**

"Oh, the blood that washed away the sin that left my heart condemned!"

We **GET TO SERVE** Him!

He's brought us in **CLOSE.**

Will you stand with me?

And you know what else? Look again at verse 14...

Hebrews 9:14

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

It says that it was **THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT** that **JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT BLEMISH** to God.

This **SAME HOLY SPIRIT** by Whom He offered Himself to God without blemish **INDWELLS US!**

He's **EQUIPPED YOU! YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!**

WHEN WE SUBMIT to the Holy Spirit day by day, **WE OFFER OURSELVES** to God without blemish.