

***The Old Covenant could picture salvation, but only Jesus could accomplish it.***

*Then indeed, even the first [covenant] had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. (Hebrews 9:1 NKJV)*

A shadow can point you to the reality, but it can never replace it.

*For a tabernacle was prepared: the first [part], in which [was] the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which [were] the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. (Hebrews 9:2-5 NKJV)*

Above the law sat the mercy seat, where blood was applied.

*whom God set forth [as] a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (Romans 3:25 NKJV)*

***The tabernacle displayed the holiness of God, but it also declared the distance of man.***

*Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest [went] alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and [for] the people's sins [committed] in ignorance; (Hebrews 9:6-7 NKJV)*

That is what sin does. It alienates. It separates. It bars the door.

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden [His] face from you, So that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2 NKJV)*

The repetition of the old sacrifices was proof that they could cover sin symbolically, but they could not conquer it finally.

*the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It [was] symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- [concerned] only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. (Hebrews 9:8-10 NKJV)*

Then comes the glory of the gospel. When Jesus died.

*Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, (Matthew 27:51 NKJV)*

That was not a random event. It was a divine declaration.

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 NKJV)*

***The law could regulate the outside, but only grace can renew the inside.***

*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. (Hebrews 9:11 NKJV)*

Our Salvation rests on the finished and ongoing ministry of Jesus in heaven.

*Who [is] he who condemns? [It is] Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Romans 8:34 NKJV)*

Our hope is not in an earthly religion reaching upward, rather a heavenly Savior interceding downward.

*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. (Hebrews 9:12 NKJV)*

His blood is sufficient for every sinner who comes by faith.

*knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, [like] silver or gold, from your aimless conduct [received] by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJV)*

***Jesus did not purchase a temporary religious arrangement; He secured eternal redemption.***

What repeated sacrifices could never finish, one drop of Christ's blood accomplished forever.

*For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 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? (Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJV)*

This is one of the sweetest truths in the passage: Christians can have a clean conscience.

*Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."*

***The gospel does not just change your record in heaven; it changes your conscience on earth.***

*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. (Hebrews 9:15 NKJV)*

The old covenant sacrifices did not finally pay for sin. They anticipated the sacrifice that would.

*whom God set forth [as] a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, (Romans 3:25 NKJV)*

Under the new covenant, we receive an eternal inheritance, full adoption, final resurrection, unending joy in His presence.

*to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (1 Peter 1:4 NKJV)*

That inheritance is not fragile because it does not depend on our merit.

*For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV)*

Jesus did not come merely to announce a covenant; He came to seal it with His blood.