

GREATER THAN

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS
9:15-28

THE MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT

15For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

16For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

17For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

18Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.

19For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU."

21And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.

22And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.

26Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

28so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.



DIGGING IN

Read Hebrews 9:15-28

DISCUSS

- For what reason is Christ the mediator of a new covenant?
- What sins does this passage say Christ's death redeemed?
- What is the first covenant that is referred to here?
- Who are those who have been called?
- What does verse 15 show us about salvation in the Old Testament?
- What does verse 16 mean? Why does there need to be death when a covenant is made?
- How can we understand the statement: "A covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives?"
- What book was sprinkled?
- What was the importance of sprinkling with blood? What was the symbolism of it?
- Imagine an unbeliever asks you the following question: "Why do Christians obsess over blood? How can the blood of a man who lived 2000 years ago help you?" What would you say?
- What does the "copies of the things in the heavens" refer to?
- What did Jesus offer when He approached the presence of God on our behalf?
- What practical impact does the fact that Jesus need only die once have on us? How does this truth effect our lives today 2000 years after His sacrifice for us?
- When was the consummation of the ages?
- Will you face judgment? Believers do or don't? What will happen at your judgment? Will you be judged/punished for your sins? How does the fact that there is a judgment after death affect our life on earth now?
- How does this well-known verse fit into the context?
- Why is it appointed for man to die? Why does God not allow us to keep on living forever?
- Explain the phrase "appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin."
- Are you waiting for Him? How should we wait for Him? What should we do while we wait for Him? Is there anything we can do to shorten this wait?