

## **Were You Happy When The New Priest Came To Town?**

### **Hebrews 9 & 10**

**Do you miss the good ole days?**

**What Jesus did on the cross is superior to the old sacrificial system.**

### **What Does The Bible Say?**

6 When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties.

7 But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

(Hebrews 9:6–7 NLT)

**The high priest entered only once a year on the Day of Atonement.**

10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established. (Hebrews 9:10 NLT)

**Why was a better system needed?**

**The Old System had restricted access.**

**The Old System had limited effectiveness.**

**What Does The Bible Say?**

11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. (Hebrews 9:11–12 NLT)

## **Old Covenant**

**Repeated sacrifices**

**The blood of animals**

**Covering sins of ignorance**

**Could not clear conscience**

**For Israel only**

**High Priest left holy of holies** Jesus entered heaven and remains there

**Came out to bless the people** Jesus will come to take His people to heaven

## **How Can We Obey**

19 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.

(Hebrews 10:19 NLT)

## **New Covenant**

**One sacrifice**

**His own blood**

**Covering all sin**

**Can clear conscience**

**For all sinners**

## **Come to God through Christ's blood.**

20 By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place 21 And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, (Hebrews 10:20, 21 NLT)

25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. (Hebrews 7:25 NLT)

51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, (Matthew 27:51 NLT)

## **Come to God through Christ.**

22 let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22 NLT)

## **Come to God with the assurance of salvation.**

23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23–25 NLT)

## **Come to God as a family.**

### **Additional Notes:**

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at [www.crosswaveschurch.com/host](http://www.crosswaveschurch.com/host). Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

**Explore:**

**KEY TRUTHS:**

- 1. Jesus' Blood Sacrifice Provided Redemption Once for All (Hebrews 9:6-7, 11-22)**
- 2. Jesus' Better Sacrifice Takes Away Our Sin (Hebrews 10:1-17)**

**HOW IT FITS: Where This Lesson Fits in the Story of the**

**Bible:** The writer's declaration of the supremacy of Christ was written around AD 64-68.

## **Explore:**

Understanding the context for which any book in Scripture was written is important for accurate interpretation. This is especially true for theologically dense books such as Hebrews. The book of Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish Christians who were under intense pressure from their unsaved Jewish brothers to go back to the Law and walk away from their faith in Jesus. The writer of Hebrews wanted his readers to understand that Jesus has always been at the center of God's redemptive program. Jesus is the cornerstone; Jesus is essential. Christ has provided a better sacrifice than what the old system provided. Christ provided Himself.

## **Jesus' Blood Sacrifice Provided Redemption Once for All**

**(Hebrews 9:6-7, 11-22)**

Leading up to chapters 9 and 10, the writer of Hebrews explained how the old covenant that was established through

Moses, while serving an important purpose, was not able to save sinners. It showed people their need for a Savior and pointed them to Jesus, who was superior to angels, prophets, priests, and the Law. Jesus established a better covenant with better terms, better jurisdiction (for all who believe), and better promises. Jesus' covenant was better than the old Law, the old system, the old promises, and the old alternatives.

In chapter 9, the author continued to make comparisons between the old covenant worship within the Tabernacle and the new covenant worship in Jesus. In verses 6-7, we read about the service and duties that were offered within the first section of the Tabernacle. This was known as the Holy Place, and it was where the priests would perform their daily duties. Then, we learn of the second section known as the Holy of Holies, where only the high priest would enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He would enter two times on that day. First he would sprinkle blood to cover his own sins. Then he would go back and make

atonement for the rest of the nation. That sprinkled blood atonement had to be repeated year after year.

Jesus, however, offered something better than a temporary atonement. He secured an eternal atonement for sin through His own blood (Hebrews 9:11- 12). This was a better sacrifice than the blood of bulls and goats and lambs. Verse 12 says He entered once for all. This is in contrast to the Old Testament priests who had to repeatedly offer a sacrifice of the blood of goats and calves and lambs over and over again. The fact that the high priest had to do it again and again demonstrated that the old covenant was inadequate. Jesus, however, ushered in a new covenant, a better covenant because He offered a sacrifice once for all. His perfect sacrifice secured redemption and peace with God for those who believe in Him through His saving work.

The author continued in verses 13-14. If under the old covenant the outer-man could be cleansed and sanctified through these

rituals, how much more will the inner man be transformed, forgiven, cleansed, washed, and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

In verses 15-22, the author shifted to a discussion of the significance of blood. He reminded his audience that even the old covenant (Mosaic covenant) was not established without the shedding of blood (verse 18). Why was blood so significant when talking about atonement? Blood is associated with life.

When the blood is gone, death occurs. Even a will (testament or covenant) is really not in force without death (verses 16-17. See also Leviticus 17:11). Remember, this letter was written because these Jewish believers were tempted to go back under the Law and move away from the death of Jesus as the only means of being made righteous before God. They had a common understanding of the need for a blood sacrifice.

The author continued this thought in verses 19- 22, reflecting on how every aspect of the old covenant system was sanctified and purified by the sprinkling of blood taken from goats and calves and lambs. The author emphatically stated that forgiveness of sin is impossible without blood being spilt. However, the blood of animals was insufficient to take away the sins of humanity. The blood of animals offered temporary atonement, requiring repeated application.

**Explore:**

Praise God for the blood of Jesus! He does not focus on our having a polished exterior, the outer-man. Jesus deals with the inner-man—He deals with the heart. Due to the saving work of the Cross and the Resurrection, Jesus ministers on our behalf as the forever High Priest in the very throne room of God. We no longer need a temporary blood sacrifice that has to be continually repeated. We no longer need to approach God

vicariously through a priest. Instead, we can go straight to the throne of grace through Jesus. Now, God's people gather as cleansed, redeemed, forgiven, and restored sons and daughters of God, worshiping together, all in the name of Jesus, the Lord and Savior.

### **Explore:**

#### **Jesus' Better Sacrifice Takes Away Our Sin**

##### **(Hebrews 10:1-17)**

In verses 1-3, the author explained how the Mosaic Law (old covenant) was just a shadow of what Christ would usher in; the Law simply pointed toward the greater reality. He said the Law of Moses could never perfect the worshiper, which was demonstrated by the fact that the high priest had to repeatedly take the blood of animals and do that work. Under the old covenant, the people were reminded every year of the sin standing between them and God. Today, however, sin has been

dealt with; the penalty has been fully paid once for all. We do not have to offer sacrifices over and over again. When we do sin, we confess and repent before the Lord so that our intimacy with God is restored.

Notice the emphasis of verse 4, where the writer used the word impossible. It was impossible for the blood of animals to take away the sins of humans. Only a sinless human being could stand in for the sins of other humans. No animal or angel could take on our sin and pay its price. It had to be a human representative—a kinsman redeemer. In verses 5-7, the author referred to Psalm 40:6-8 that pointed to the Messiah, saying that God prepared a body for Christ. Why was a body prepared for Jesus? It was because He had to be human to come and die on the cross for our sins—He had to represent us as a human being. This is something the author had addressed earlier (Hebrews 2:14).

Verses 8-14 offer more evidence of Jesus' sacrifice securing eternal atonement for those who believe. The Messiah had come to do the will of His Father, and in doing so, the new covenant was established. Jesus need not be sacrificed repeatedly; He died once for all. When this letter was written, the Temple was likely still standing. The priests were still doing their work—repeatedly offering these sacrifices. However, the author once again emphasized that when Jesus offered His once for all sacrifice, He sat down at the right hand of God. That means the work was done; it was finished. The high priest could never sit down at God's right hand because the work was never finished. Jesus, however, could sit there; it was done.

Verse 14 says that the single sacrifice of Christ perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. The present work of sanctification is often painful and challenging as we go through the issues of life that God uses to perfect or sanctify us. He is constantly doing a work in our lives, and that work will go on for

the remainder of our time on this earth. We will never achieve perfect holiness on this side of glory, but God is forming us into the image of His Son. Sanctification is a past, present, and future process. People are sanctified when they become believers, and believers are being sanctified as they grow in Christ. Finally believers will be sanctified when they see Christ and are made to be like Him. Verses 15- 17 confirm the blessing of the sacrifice, citing from Jeremiah 31:33.

There is no longer any need for ongoing sacrificial offerings because the atonement is accomplished. Jesus has paid the penalty. This was an important point to make to Jews who were being tempted to go back to the Old Testament sacrificial system. The author made it clear that it would be unwise to go back because those animal sacrifices cannot make eternal atonement for sin. The final, perfect sacrifice has taken place. Jesus has accomplished the work and there is nothing more needed to make forgiveness and salvation available to all who

trust in Christ. Jesus was, and is, the answer. Jesus was, and is, the way. Jesus provided a better sacrifice, a perfect sacrifice. No alternative is superior to Jesus; no other sacrifice is superior; no other ideology is superior; no other belief system is superior; no other philosophy is superior. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin, and Jesus shed His own blood to cover our sins.

**Explore:**

Jesus shed His blood to provide atonement for our sins. God offers salvation and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Explore:**

Why couldn't God just forgive us and be done with it? Why death, and blood, and agony? Why was that necessary? It was necessary because somebody had to pay. A holy and just God cannot simply sweep our sin under the rug as if sin can be

ignored. The reality is that sin must be dealt with. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin always leads to spiritual death. Somebody had to die. Who could pay that penalty? God sent His Son to pay the penalty for human sin. He had to be a human to die our death. But, more than that, He had to be a perfect human; He had to be without sin completely. If He had committed even one sin, Jesus would have been disqualified from dying on the cross for us because He would have needed to die for Himself. We were disqualified at conception, before we ever committed sin, because of our sinful nature. That is the beauty of the incarnation of Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, who was a virgin, communicating nothing of humanity's sinful nature as Jesus took on human flesh. There was no stain of sin in that One who then kept the Law perfectly, which qualified Him to give His life for every sin of every human being who ever lived. He had no sin of His own to atone for. In the Old Testament, during Passover, which was a picture of the sacrifice

that Jesus would give, God informed the Jews to select a lamb without spot or wrinkle, meaning it could have no marks or deformities. It had to be a perfect lamb that was sacrificed, and if the blood was properly applied to the doorposts, it would save the people from death. Jesus was, and is, the perfect, spotless, Lamb of God.

**Explore:**

Christianity is about more than going to church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each of his or her learners enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it. As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is about more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not

mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and your need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and in His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Most of all, remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and give them an opportunity to respond. If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

### **Question 1 of 4**

How do you handle change in your environment? Is it easy for you or hard?

### **Question 2 of 4**

List reasons why what Jesus did on the cross is superior to the old sacrificial system.

### **Question 3 of 4**

What does it mean that Christ's work on the cross eliminates the division between the holy of holies and the holy place?

**Question 4 of 4**

What does the church offer an individual believer that he cannot get elsewhere or on his own?

**Question 5 of 5**

Why is it important to confess your sins daily and ask for forgiveness when praying?

