

“ONE AND DONE” / STORY -

A. The One and Done sacrifice of Jesus.

1. (Hebrews 10:1-4) Sacrifice under the Old Covenant could not truly take away sin.

V1. The Old Covenant (the law) was a mere shadow of the substance that is the New Covenant. Shadow means that the law communicated the outline and the figure of the fulfillment to come in Jesus, but was not the very image coming. Shadow isn't necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes a shadow can tell you a lot. But the shadow is not the substance. The Old Covenant and its law were not themselves bad or evil, they are only incomplete and insufficient - affectively sounding the alarm of need but with no ability to affect change. The shadow can never make those who approach perfect.

V2. The writer to the Hebrews repeats a familiar argument: the repetition of sacrifice shows its inherent weakness. If animal sacrifices had solved the sin problem, then they could have ceased to be offered.

V3. Every repeated sacrifice was a reminder of sins from before - a return to shame and regret. It brought the consciousness of sins to the people again and again. But the work of Jesus on the cross takes away sin!

V4. Now animal sacrifice under the Old Covenant could cover sin. The Hebrew word for atonement is “kopher”, which literally means, “to cover.” Yet animal sacrifice could never take away sins. Only Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice of the New Covenant, takes sins away. This distinguishes the new covenant with the old, where the sacrifices were repeated over and over again. In fact, there is no other religion in which one great happening brings salvation through the centuries and throughout the world. This is the distinctive doctrine of Christianity.

2. (Hebrews 10:5-10) Psalm 40:6-8 gives a prophetic foundation for Jesus' perfect sacrifice under the New Covenant.

V5-7. This quotation is taken from the Septuagint version of Psalm 40:6-8 (the Septuagint is the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament that was the most commonly used Bible in the first century. It shows that prophetically Jesus declared the insufficient nature of Old Covenant sacrifice and declared His willingness to offer a perfect sacrifice under the New Covenant.

V5. More animal sacrifices, made under the law, would not please God. Repeatedly in the Old Testament God expressed His desire for obedience rather than sacrifice.

V6. Instead, what pleased God could only come through Jesus, the incarnate Son of God the body of Jesus was perfectly prepared and suited to live as fully man and fully God.

V7. Jesus' submission to God the Father's will had its ultimate fulfillment in His obedience to the cross. This desire to do God's will was shown in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-44) and fulfilled at the cross.

V8-9. Remember of course, the sacrifice of Jesus was determined before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8). This was no after thought! Yet it was still an act of His will to submit to the incarnation and the cross at the appointed time; it is by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.

V10. "Once for all" - These are the important words of this passage, and the writer to the Hebrews repeats the theme over and over again: once for all. Understand this provision in its entirety within concept of Christ' act of sacrifice. The Great Physician has diagnosed us with a terminal illness - that of sin. He has prescribed medication (the sacrifices) that will mitigate the symptoms (broken relationship with God) of that illness (sin) and will suffice until the day of surgery (salvation). With Christ' act of sacrifice, we are crucified with Him, made new, freed from the deadly hold of our previous illness. Now we recover with the Holy Spirit gradually purifying us for purpose (Sanctification), looking forward to one day when we are completely new and free from sin in Paradise (glorification).

3. (Hebrews 10:11-18) The finished work of Jesus Christ.

V11-12. "Every priest stands ministering daily" The priests had to stand continually in their work. Their work continued daily and sacrifices had to be repeatedly offered. The priests could never sit down! In contrast, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, having finished His work of sacrificing for sin. But this Man - Opposed to the plurality of Levitical priests does not sit from fatigue, He sits to signify final provision and His official seat of power. One sacrifice, once for ever, not many and often, as they once were. His work is finished. He doesn't need to stand ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices as flawed human priests under the Old Covenant had to. Jesus still ministers in heaven — He has a ministry of intercession for His people. But that ministry flows from His **completed** work, so He can adopt a posture of rest — He sat down at the right hand of God. In **Mark 14:62-63** when Jesus claimed the place at the right hand of God, the high priest regarded it as blasphemy — as Jesus claiming to be God Himself.

V13. "Till His enemies are made His footstool" - This looks forward to the consummation of the work of Jesus, and every part connects. The incarnation leads to His perfect life; His perfect life leads to His atoning death, paying the price for all the world's sin; His atoning death leads to His resurrection called out of the grave; His resurrection leads to His ascension to glory, power and authority; His ascension to glory leads to His return and triumph over every single possible enemy.

V14. "He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" - This makes it plain that the work of Jesus is effective for those submitted - capable of saving every

human being, but it is only effective in saving those who are being sanctified (set apart to God).

V15. "The Holy Spirit also witnesses to us.." - In this passage, the writer to the Hebrews clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is the LORD, Yahweh of the Old Testament. When the Holy Spirit speaks, He bears witness, as the Son makes provision in submission to the Father. The Holy Trinity personified.

V16. "This is the covenant" - Here, quoting from Jeremiah, the writer to the Hebrews makes note of the promises of the new covenant, instituted by the Messiah Jesus the Christ. The new covenant has to do with an inner transformation. God changes the heart of man, and writes His law into their hearts.

V17-18. This forgiveness is so complete that God chooses to not even remember our sins in light of the new covenant (Psalm 103:12). The Law of God now written on the hearts of those who submit to His authority and provision, completes the work of the great physician. The disease of sin has been diagnosed, the medication of the sacrifices was prescribed - always with the future surgical precision of the Messiah in mind, and now the Holy Spirit vows to complete what has been made new and set apart in our hearts - solely because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Small Group Questions - Hebrews Chapter 10

Hebrews 10:1-18 contrasts the temporary, Old Testament animal sacrifices with the one, perfect, and final sacrifice of Jesus Christ. While the Old Testament Law couldn't perfect people, Christ's offering of His body once for all does sanctify believers, removing sin and establishing a new covenant. In this covenant, God remembers their sins no more, allowing for complete forgiveness and a new life.

1. In what way(s) was the Law of Moses inadequate, yet a "shadow of good things to come"? (10:1-2)
2. If God neither desired nor was pleased with the old covenant sacrifices, why did the Israelites continue with them? (10:8)
3. In what way does the new covenant motivate you to live for Him? (V. 16)
4. In what sense have we, "been sanctified" (10:10) while at the same time "are being sanctified"? (10:14)