

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Open up your bibles with me to Hebrews 9

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the book of Hebrews.

A letter that was written to a group of Jewish believers that were contemplating going back to Judaism.

And so the writer is writing to them to continue to endure and not go back to Judaism.

Let's pray...

The theme of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus is superior to all.

Even superior to all that is good.

That is what the writer of Hebrews has been laying out for us in his letter to these Jewish believers.

Jesus is greater than the Old Testament prophets

Jesus is greater than angels

He is greater than Moses and Aaron

And for the past couple of weeks – from the beginning of ch 7 until we get to the end of ch 10 – the writer lays out that Jesus is greater than the Jewish sacrificial system – the

priests, the Aaronic high priests, the tabernacle, the sacrificial system and even the law.

[Heb 9:1-28 NKJV] 1 Then indeed, even the first [covenant] had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first [part], in which [was] the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 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; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

In the Old Testament tabernacle –

You might remember from our studies through Exodus

It essentially was a tent in the shape of a rectangle

It was a tent that resembled a shoebox in the middle of the wilderness

It was 15' wide x 45' long X 15' high

And when the priest would go into the tabernacle -the first room was called “the Holy Place” – the writer calls it the sanctuary here in his letter.

In this room was the lamp stand or menorah, the table of show bread and there was the altar of incense.

Twice a day a priest would enter to work with the lamp.

In the morning he would put out the light, clean the lamp, trim the wick, and refill it with fresh oil.

In the evening he would relight the lamp.

Twice a day a priest would burn incense on the golden altar and offer up the prayers of the people, doing this at the same time as he works with the lamp.

Once a week a priest would replace the old showbread with fresh showbread.

So this area is where the priests would take turns and worship – in the first room.

BTW – all these things point to Jesus

The menorah – Jesus said I am the light of the World

The show bread – Jesus said I am the bread of life

Golden altar where the incense was burned – we saw the writer tell us in Heb 7:25 that Jesus is interceding on our behalf right now!!!

The second room – was divided by a veil

That room was called the Holy of Holies

And the only thing inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant – and the writer provides for us the things that were inside the Ark of the Covenant at the time of the Tabernacle

The tablets with the Ten Commandments that God wrote for Moses.

Aaron's rod

And the container with manna

Now – I did say at the time of the tabernacle –

Because by the time we get to King Solomon and he build the temple and they bring the Ark of the Covenant into the temple – the only thing that was in the Ark of the Covenant was the tablets (1 Kings 8:9)

And when the people returned to rebuild the temple after the exile – there was no Ark in the temple – because it went missing before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians.

Essentially what the writer is doing here is laying this picture in the minds of the Jewish believers before he makes his point

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. 7 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; 8 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. 9 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-- 10 [concerned] only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

So again – the writer is painting the picture of what the priests would do –

The priests would do their thing in the front room and then once a year, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat – but notice, with all the offerings that were being made – they could not make the High Priest -who is going into the Holy of Holies – on the Day of Atonement, perfect

The holiest priest, entering the holiest of places on the holiest day of the year – even putting all three things together, those three things could not make the people of Israel perfect or anyone else perfect before God, but they couldn't even make the high priest perfect before God in terms of conscience.

So through the entire ceremony – what the Holy Spirit was indicating to the Children of Israel that access to the Holiest of All was not accessible to the average person

And there was nothing in the law that could make anyone good enough to go in there with him.

The law was not able to even allow a member of the Children of Israel to go into the model of heaven much less, make them righteous enough to enter into heaven.

They couldn't even enter the model

And the one great truth that was indicated to them was that God is too holy for any of us to approach on the basis of any animal sacrifice

The law could not bring you into intimacy with God

The law couldn't reform, and it couldn't change a life.

Remember – the law could only show someone that they were a sinner in need of a savior. (the mirror)

That means that everyone that showed up that day to bring their sacrifice on the Day of Atonement – they left the same way they showed up.

Their conscience wasn't changed

They didn't have the power to live a different life

And so every year – it was a reminder to them.

11 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.

So the writer is going to talk about Jesus' superiority as High Priest

And the first thing he talks about is that Jesus operates as a High Priest in a superior sanctuary than the High Priests under the Aaronic order

The Aaronic high priests dealt with a model

But Jesus operates as a High Priest from Heaven itself

That in itself should be enough for these Jewish believers to not go back – but, the writer is not though

12 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.

So Jesus not only operates from a superior sanctuary than the Aaronic high priests

He handles a superior sacrifice than the Aaronic HP's

Jesus does not handle the blood of goats and calves

Jesus deals with His own blood

Jesus enters into the Holy of Holies – not of the Tabernacle – but of Heaven itself with His own blood

The animal sacrifices allowed the Aaronic HP to enter into the model but Jesus' sacrifice provides access into the holiest place of all – heaven itself

And His sacrifice is the only sacrifice that He handled – and He did it once and for all.

The reason that it was only done once – is because it lasts forever.

That is why His sacrifice is superior to those that were done in Judaism.

Even the best sacrifice of the OT was only good enough for a year

They didn't have the power to permanently address man's sin.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 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?

The OT sacrifices only covered our sins – they only allowed us to be ceremoniously clean. They cleansed the flesh so to speak.

The OT sacrifices were never intended to provide salvation to anyone.

But Jesus' sacrifice – not only deals with our salvation / He also cleanses our conscious – so we don't have to feel commendation about something we did that He forgave us for and feel that we must go back to works.

15 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.

This is a great picture he paints here.

He says in effect that all those sacrifices and offerings that were made under the old covenant - they were like IOU's that people made to God.

Each sacrifice was another IOU

When Christ came, He gathered up all the IOU's and nailed them to the cross.

When He shouted, "It is finished – Paid in full" every one of those IOU's was paid in full.

Nobody could get into heaven on the basis of the Old Covenant

The OT sacrifices could only cover sins they couldn't wash away sins

The OT saints when they died – they didn't go into heaven

They went into Hades (Abraham's bosom) until Jesus' sacrifice.

We look back at Jesus work on the cross

The OT saints looked forward to it.

16 For where there [is] a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament [is] in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

What the writer of Hebrews is saying here –

He is saying that in the same way that the writer of a will has to die in order for his wealth to be full distributed and transferred to those that he wants transferred to.

So to – Jesus had to die in order to pass His riches to us fully – the greatest of His riches is the remission of sins that the writer brings up in a few verses.

It was necessary for Jesus Christ to die so that the terms of the New Covenant might be enforced.

18 Therefore not even the first [covenant] was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "This [is] the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And

according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Turn with me to Exodus 24

[Exo 24:3-8 NKJV] 3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." 4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. 6 And Moses took half the blood and put [it] in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled [it] on the people, and said, "**This is the blood of the covenant** which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

So Moses took the blood from these oxen and sprinkled it on the people.

The oxen blood was the "death" that inaugurated Moses' covenant.

It's after this that Moses would go up the mountain and receive the commandments carved in stone.

I had you make a note where Moses says - This is the blood of the covenant

That phrase should sound familiar –

Because it was at the last supper – that Jesus took the cup and said,

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Both covenants were started, or “dedicated” (v.18) with blood.

23 Therefore [it was] necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

We can understand why the earthly tabernacle and temple had to be purified and dedicated by the application of blood.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness of sins.

And since the earthly temple was built by mere human hands, it was subject to being defiled.

The sprinkling of blood cleansed the temple of its defilement, at least temporarily

But heaven is undefiled,

Heaven is holy!

Sin is not allowed to enter there.

That is why Jesus' sacrifice is the better sacrifice as through it we can have communion with God.

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

While the high priests of Israel had to renew the sacrifice every year –

Jesus offered Himself once!

And that one offering is good for all time

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, **28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**

Quiz -

How many times is it appointed for men to die????

Once and after judgment

Very important to grasp church –

Because there are a few bad teachings going around

Because this is biblical truth that there is no such thing as purgatory

We don't get a second chance after death

We don't go to a place and wait and wait and just maybe, things will get better for us

The other thing that it tells us is that there is no such thing as reincarnation

Because after we die – we face our Maker

We are going to have to give an account for our life

We are not going to come back as bird or a dog or a cat or a bug or a cow

That is all not biblical

When Jesus came the first time, He came to take care of our sins, to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus is going to come a second time, and when He comes, He won't be coming to take care of sin, but He is going to come and bring in salvation, to set up His kingdom on earth.

Who will benefit at His Second coming?

Those who “eagerly wait” for Him. Those that are looking forward to His return.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, “I am a sinner.”

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

