

Hebrews Nine

Hebrews 9:1-10

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

The Three Items In The Ark

- The golden jar of manna speaks of Jesus as a prophet. Jesus is the bread of life that came down from heaven proclaiming the message of God to man. Jesus is the Message Himself.
- Aaron's staff that had budded speaks of Jesus as our Priest. As our Priest He sits at the right hand of God in the heavenly tabernacle interceding on our behalf.
- The stone tablets of the covenant speaks of the time when Jesus will rule the world as King from Jerusalem during the Millennium. (Mcgee) **The Tabernacle, God's Portrait of Christ**

What Happened To The Ark?

- Some think that the Babylonians melted it down for the gold when they destroyed the Temple in 586 BC.
- There is a rabbinic legend (written down around 100 BC but presumably older) that, when the Babylonians invaded the Temple, the priests hurled the Ark skyward, and God took it back into Heaven.
- The Ark was hidden by the priests in a secret cave under the Temple Mount, carved out by Solomon (or perhaps by King Josiah, 640 - 609 BC).

- The Second Book of Maccabees mentions in chapter 2 (verses 4-8) that Jeremiah the prophet by divine revelation secretly removed the Ark and other valuable items from the Temple before its destruction to the mountain which Moses had climbed on before his death. He then sealed the passageway so that nobody could find it till the end times. So the ark is in a cave somewhere by the Dead Sea or at Mount Nebo.
- In 1991, a journalist named Graham Hancock wrote a book called SIGN AND SEAL, claiming the Ark is in a small church out in the desert in Ethiopia.

- In his book, *'Temple Treasures'* (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon, 1994), Bible scholar and explorer Dr. Randall Price states that at least three rabbis in Jerusalem have claimed they have seen the Ark or have been very close to it. Their accounts(not identical) indicate the Ark is kept in a room or cave deep underneath the Temple Mount, but directly beneath the Holy of Holies. A secret excavation was under way in 1981 to close in on the Ark when the Moslems heard of it and sealed the tunnel entrance with concrete with the blessing of the Israeli government.
- Ron Wyatt claims to have seen the ark in a cave under the temple mount.
- Revelation 11:19, "Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm."

The Blood Of Sacrifice

- The High Priest never entered into the inner room without the blood of sacrifice.
- This has been the case ever since God initiated it in the garden.
- Adam and Eve had made garments out of fig leaves. The man made clothes could only cover the shame of nakedness but not their sin.
- God acting as their Priest made the first blood sacrifice to Himself by the killing of an animal to cover the sin of man
- "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."-**Genesis 3:21**

- God or Adam would have also told Cain and Abel the process of animal sacrifice.
- Rom. 10:17 says, "...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." And Hebrews 11:6 says. ..."Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)..."
- Belief in **what God has said** is the same for man today, God's ways have not changed
- Cain brought to God an offering of the ground which was cursed
- "Cursed is the ground for your sake; **In toil you shall eat of it**"-- Gen 3:17
- Abel's offering was the blood and fat of an animal made in faith as he would have been instructed.

Numbers 18:17

"17 But the firstborn of a cow, the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD."

There is Three Types Of Sin

- There is the **sin that is of the will**. Committing sin knowing it is wrong.
- "Also **keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me;** Then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression."-Psalm 19:12-13
- There is **the sin of ignorance**. A person doesn't know the action that they are doing is wrong.
- There is the **sin that controls from within** and we are powerless to overcome.-Romans 7

Greek Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Harmatia</i>	Miss the Mark	Romans 3:9
<i>Paraptoma</i>	Lapse or deviation from the truth; False Step or Blunder	Hebrews 6:6; Matt. 6:14; 2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:5
<i>Parabaino</i>	To Overstep, to Neglect, to depart; to Go Beyond	Matt. 15:2; Acts 1:25; 2 John 1:9
<i>Huperbaino</i>	To Go Over, to blur the lines	1 Thess. 4:6
<i>Anomia</i>	Lawlessness, whether being ignorant or willful	Matt. 7:23; 2 Thess. 2:7; Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:4

Hebrew Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Chat'a</i>	Miss the mark through word or deed	Judges 20:16; Proverbs 19:2
<i>'Asham</i>	Sin out of ignorance	Leviticus 4:13
<i>'Aven</i>	A lifestyle of bad conduct	Psalms 10:7
<i>'Avah</i>	Going in the wrong direction	1 Samuel 20:30
<i>'Amal</i>	Cause problems in people's lives	Isaiah 10:1; Hab. 1:3
<i>'Aval</i>	Deceitfulness	Psalms 43:1
<i>'Abar</i>	Cross the line in thought or deed	Hosea 6:7;8:1
<i>Ra'a</i>	Being totally good for nothing	Proverbs 20:14
<i>Pash'a</i>	Cause separation by rebellion in relationships	Isaiah 43:27
<i>Rash'a</i>	wickedness	Job 3:17

Hebrew Word	Definition	Reference
<i>Shagag</i>	Sin through deception, Led astray	Psalms 119:21
<i>Zimmah</i>	Sin Willfully	
<i>Shal</i>	Accidental Sin; Non-intent	
<i>Ma'al</i>	Breach of Trust	Nehemiah 13:27

Sin And Its Wages

- "Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness."-**1 John 3:4**
- "All unrighteousness is sin...."-**1 John 5:17**
- "....whatever is not of faith is sin.-**Romans 14:23**
- "for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."-**Romans 3:23**
- "....for the wages of sin is death"-**Romans 6:23**

Nature of Sin

- "Sin is lawlessness."-**1 John 3:4**
- Sin is unrighteousness-**1 John 5:17**
- Sin is anything not of faith. -**Romans 14:23**
- Sin is universal.-**Romans 3:10,19,23**

Problem Of The Heart

- "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" - Jeremiah 17:9
- "And He said, 'What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.'" - Mark 7:20-23

Solution to our Problem

- Press on realizing God will not leave you in the state you're in but will carry you unto completion (Php. 1:6)
- Recognize the will is useless against the sin (Col. 2:21-23)
- Confess which is to agree with God as David did in Psalm 19

- Look up towards the cross (Hebrews 12:2)
- Establish the foundation of your whole life upon God's grace (Hebrews 13:9)
- Never put yourself under the law and condemnation (Rom 8:1)
- Feed the new nature with the word of God which will expose the hidden parts of our life (Hebrews 4:12)
- Know the difference between religion and relationship (Mark 7:13; John 17:3)

Leviticus 16:34

- "This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel once a year because of all their sins." It was done as the Lord commanded Moses.
- All sins are atoned for but each must be dealt with accordingly.
- Jesus' work is far greater than the work done on the Day of Atonement. Jesus' work on the cross is sufficient to atone for both the sins we do in ignorance and sins that we know and the sins of powerlessness.

The Holy Spirit Gives Understanding

- The writer clarified that the Holy Spirit intended to communicate the fact that the Old system was simply a shadow of the reality.
- The weakness of the priestly service under the Old Covenant was its inability to address the need for inner transformation in man.
- The Old system was able to cover the sins for a year but it did not cleanse the conscience in a moment by moment relationship with the Lord
- The work of Jesus accomplished once and for all an atonement for sins that cleansed man's sins and conscience.
- The infilling of the Holy Spirit communicates a clear conscience.

The Witness Of The Holy Spirit

- The Hebrew writer is directing us to the Holy Spirit Who is communicating to the believer that the Holy Place is within the believer.
- "The Holy Spirit is indicating this, that the way into the Holy Place wasn't yet revealed while the first tabernacle was still standing"-**Hebrews 9:8**
- "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"-**1 Corinthians 6:19**
- "... clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart."-**2 Corinthians 3:3**

- "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..."-Romans 8:15-16
- The believer has a relationship with God the Father so close that He is our Daddy.
- "It is easy for us to think of Jesus relating to the Father with this joyful confidence, but we may think we are disqualified for it. However, remember that we are *in Christ* - we have the privilege of relating to the Father even as Jesus Christ does."(Guzik)

The Holy Spirit Intercedes For Us

- "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the **Spirit** *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*."-Romans 8:27
- "Likewise the **Spirit** also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit** Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."-Romans 8:26
- We don't need a mediator to do the work for us because the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us beyond our ability to express.

Hebrews 9:11-15

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. 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. 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? 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.

The Perfect Temple Without Hands

- "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" -Mark 14:58
- Thus says the LORD: "Heaven *is* My throne, And earth *is* My footstool. Where *is* the house that you will build Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?" -Isaiah 66:1
- For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: "**I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**" -Isaiah 57:15
- God dwells in the place of the humble a much greater and more perfect tabernacle not of this creation nor created by human hands.

Cleansing Of Conscience

- The conscience of man is a tool given to man from God.
- The problem is our conscience is not perfect for guiding behavior
- The conscience can be seared (1 Timothy 4:2).
- The conscience can be defiled (Titus 1:15).
- The conscience can be evil (Hebrews 10:22).
- **The conscience needs to be cleansed from the old damaged problems within man so that it can be sensitive to guidance by the Spirit of God.**

Eternal Redemption

- As has been stated over and over again the Old sacrificial system was a temporary solution for the problem of sin.
- The old system merely covered sin for one year and resulted in a temporary blessing.
- The death of Jesus on the Cross put away sin for man and now man stands justified through faith before God and sealed for an eternal blessing.
- This justification is for here and now but is also a promise of eternal salvation giving strength for faithfulness during temporary trials.

Hebrews 9:16-18

For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood.

The Will

- The word for "testament" in the original language is "*diatheke*" which means "settlement"
- "With a play on the double meaning of *diatheke* (both 'a covenant' and 'a testament'), the author goes on to bring out the necessity for the death of Christ just as the death of the testator is required if a will is to come into force." (Morris)
- Jesus died so that believers could inherit the gift of life.

- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ; even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish before him in love; having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely bestowed favor on us in the Beloved, in whom we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, in him; in whom also we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his will; to the end that we should be to the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ: in whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:3-14

Hebrews 9:19-22

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, saying, “This *is* the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.”

Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

Blood Is Not Be Eaten

- God commands Noah not to eat the blood of an animal.
- This command is not just to Noah but all humanity.
- The blood symbolizes the life source of the animal (Lev. 17:11,14; Deuteronomy 12:23)
- “Only be sure that you don’t eat the blood: for the blood is the life; and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.”-**Deuteronomy 12:23**
- The importance of blood in the bible is clear by the frequency of its usage: 424 times in 357 separate verses.

Blood Symbolizes Many Things In Scripture

- Blood was a sign of mercy for Israel at the first Passover (Ex 12:13)
- Blood sealed God’s covenant with Israel (Ex. 24:8)
- Blood sanctified the altar (Ex 29:12)
- Blood sanctified the priests (Ex 29:20)
- Blood made atonement for God’s people (Ex 30:10)

- Blood sealed the New Covenant (Matt 26:28)
- Blood justifies the sinner (Rom 5:9)
- Blood brings redemption (Eph. 1:7)
- Blood restores peace with God (Col 1:20)
- Blood cleanses the believer from sin (Heb. 9:14; 1 John 1:7)
- Blood gives us the right to enter God's Holy place (Heb. 10:19)
- Blood sanctifies the believer (Heb. 13:12)
- Blood of the Lamb overcomes Satan (Rev 12:11)

Blood In Some Religions

- In Some religions the blood of an animal becomes a superstitious ritual.
- The ingesting of the blood allows the person to take the soul of the animal into his being.
- Somewhat like transubstantiation for Catholics in drinking of wine every time they take communion.

No Blood No Remission

- The shedding of blood solved man's problem of sin before God.
- We should be more focused on the solution that God has provided for man than the problem
- Some people believe that sin is forgiven by *time*, by doing good works, by living a good life.
- However we are told in scripture there is **no** forgiveness without the shedding of blood and there is no **perfect** forgiveness without a **perfect** sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:23-26

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. 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;

not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—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.

Better Sacrifice For Heavenly Things

- The copies of the things in the heavens were purified with the blood of animals.
- These sacrifices were limited and they were concerned with outward things and did not deal with the human soul.
- The heavenly things were purified with the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross.
- The heavenly things refer most likely to the inward soul of man which the sacrifice of Jesus was essential.

Jesus Entered Heaven For Us

- The sole purpose of Jesus sacrifice upon the cross was for the cleansing of man's sin.
- The believer now has confidence to stand in the presence of God because Jesus is now on our side.
- "If God is for us, who can be against us"—Romans 8:31
- Satan enters the presence of God and accuses the believer constantly but we overcome him through the blood of the Lamb.
- Jesus dying for us means we don't need to fear condemnation after death because He is interceding on our behalf.

Jesus death Is Not Repeated

- Jesus appeared once to die for man's sin.
- When Jesus died for all sin for all time.
- Jesus sacrificed Himself no one put Him on the cross He went willingly.
- Jesus died for all people who will put their faith and trust in Him.
- If Christ's death were repeated he would have been doing it for years. Similar to the ancient religions recognition of the seasons.

- Rome teaches that the Mass is a continual "sacrifice" of Jesus Christ, but God's word states that Jesus made the FINAL sacrifice on Calvary! This is made perfectly clear in Hebrews 10:10-12:
- "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. Christ's Death Perfects the Sanctified and every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God..."

Roman Catholics' Continual Sacrifice

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Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 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.

Man is To Die Once

- The Hebrew writer is making an analogy between man's death and the death of Jesus.
- Man dies once so did Jesus die once.
- This not an absolute principle because there is definitely exceptions to the rule.
- Enoch walked with God and was no more (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah did not die (2 Kings 2:11)
- Lazarus was raised from the dead to die a second time. (John 11)
- The rapture of the church. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

The Second Appearing

- The first coming of Jesus dealt with the sin problem.
- The second coming of Jesus is for the salvation for all looking for His appearing.
- Most in the church today are not concerned with the second coming of Jesus.
- It ought to be a daily disappointment when our Lord does not come; instead of being, as I fear it is, a kind of foregone conclusion that he will not come just yet." (Spurgeon)

Jesus Is The Faithful Witness

- When we know the character of God we know that He can be relied upon
- **The Lord is in control of the world** and we can rely upon Him fulfilling the things which He said He would do in His word
- **In looking at the landscape of history we can see that God is moving His plan of redemption in a specific direction and will fulfill faithfully that which He has promised**