
Hebrews 9:23-28, 10:1-8

Topic: This is one of the most neglected books of the bible. We don't know who the author is, but we do know it was written for the instruction of the temple before 70 A.D. It is to the Jews what the book of Romans is to the Gentiles. Hebrews tells of sacrifices and rituals and exalts the sovereignty of Christ. It tells of Christ's relation to Moses and Abraham and all their people. This is why the Book of Hebrews is so great. The message of Hebrews is this: go on to spiritual maturity. Don't sit back on your laurels; get up and do something for the Lord, spread the word, help someone who doesn't ask but you see the need. Chapters 7, 8, & 9 deal with the priesthood of Christ. Jesus Christ is our mediator to God. If you read only one book of the entire bible, this should be the one.

Heb 9:22: (review) if there wasn't a shedding of blood, there was no forgiveness in the Old Testament.

Vs23: it was therefore necessary that heavenly things be copied on earth. Earth must follow heaven; heaven is the example to Earth. But heaven, being the original, is much better in all things. The real objects in heaven couldn't be sprinkled with animal blood. They needed something much better – Jesus Christ's blood.

Vs24: Jesus Christ is not entered into holy places made by man, no temples or sanctuaries. They are just a copy of the true temples and sanctuaries in heaven. Jesus Christ entered heaven itself, the real thing. He is in the presence of God, on the right hand of God, to intervene for us.

Vs25: the high priest did not cut himself and offer his blood: he took the blood of animals once a year and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat and put off the wrath of God for another year. That's what it was all about.

Vs26: only when Christ came and died and His blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat, all the rest was a copy that didn't forgive any sins or give us any life. Only when Jesus Christ did it, then all was forgiven and we were given life.

Vs27: reincarnation: the idea is disproved right here in this verse, it says you'll live once and die once, then receive judgement based on your one life. You do not come back to life over and over.

Vs28: Jesus Christ came first to die for our sins and offer salvation. The second time He'll come back for the believers waiting for Him, not to bear sin.

Chapter 10 (the same idea continues from Chapter 9)

10:1: The Old Testament law was nothing but a shadow, like a shadow of a mansion. You can walk in the shadow cast on the ground, but you will not be in the real mansion, and we see the difference. The shadow is nothing. The real thing is amazing. The old law just pointed to Jesus Christ.

Vs2-3: the high priest had to go back every year, year after year, and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. It only put off God's wrath for one year. It didn't forgive anything.

Vs4: the blood of animals does not take away a single sin.

Vs5: (also read Psalms 40) in the end, God will Himself provide the sacrifice, like He did with Adam and Eve and with Abraham. God will provide the body He wants sacrificed. Human logic can't figure it out. God doesn't care about human logic. He'll do it His way, and He'll provide us with all we need – appropriate sacrifices include. We only use 10% of our brains, and God disabled the other 90% because we were bad, so it is impossible for us to figure things out if God doesn't want us to. Just relax, believe in God, and you'll get eternal life. We don't need to understand everything.

Vs6: again, Psalm 40 too: God doesn't care about animal sacrifice. He accepted it as a token, a copy, and withheld His wrath.

Vs7-8: Again, God doesn't care about animal sacrifice. When God repeats something over and over again, He means it. We need to take heed, pay attention, and listen to this message. Animal sacrifice is not necessary, God doesn't take pleasure in it, and it does no good. God's plan for our salvation is to believe on Him. There is no action we can take, nothing we can do to gain salvation. Works, actions, accomplishments, generosity, and self-sacrifices; some of that may get us rewards in heaven, but not the initial salvation to get there in the first place. There is nothing you can do to "keep being saved" either. Once saved, you can never get "unsaved", no matter what you do or how bad you are. You will get punished for misbehaving, but you will still be saved, a child of God.

Read vs26 for next Sunday. We'll go over it then:

**26 :For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth,
there remained no more sacrifice for sins,**