

Jesus Our Great High Priest
An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews

One Final Complete Sacrifice
Lesson 12
Hebrews 9:16-28

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
March 19, 2017

Purpose of Hebrews

- ▶ The priesthood of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Practical application

Jesus Christ, Our Great High Priest

- ▶ Requirements for high priest
 - Deity and humanity (1:1-14; 2:14, 16-17)
 - Sinless (4:15; 7:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- ▶ Preparation for high priest
 - Made perfect through suffering (2:10; 5:8)
 - Key: the just (Just) shall live by faith (2:12-13; 10:37-38)
- ▶ Appointed by God (5:1, 4, 10)
- ▶ Offer gifts and sacrifices for sins
 - Levitical priest – temporary reprieve (7:27)
 - Melchizedek priest – perfection (7:25)

A New, Better, Everlasting Covenant

▶ Old Covenant

- Priesthood – Order of Levi
- Obligation upon the people to obey
- Temporal promises and curses

▶ New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-37; Ezekiel 36:22-30)

- Priesthood – Order of Melchizedek
- Obligation upon God to transform them
- Eternal promises to Abraham rendered certain
 - New heart/mind
 - Knowledge of God
 - Forgiveness of sins
 - An eternal relationship with God in Christ

One Sacrifice (9:1-10:18)

- ▶ Worship – “serve the living God” (9:1, 14)
- ▶ The blood of the Great High Priest (9:12) v. animal sacrifices
- ▶ Presented in heaven in the presence of God (8:1-2; 9:11-12)
- ▶ An effective sacrifice
 - Forgiveness of sins (8:12; 9:22)
 - Purification from defilement by sin (Ps 24:3-4; Jer 17:9; Matt 15:18-19)
 - Eternal perfection (10:14)

Practical Application

- ▶ Exhortations and warnings inserted into the teaching section (x5)
- ▶ A final section of personal application (10:19-13:25)
- ▶ Eternal consequences (10:26-32)
- ▶ The just shall live by faith (10:38)

One Final Complete Sacrifice

- ▶ The necessity of death (9:16-17)
- ▶ Death and the Old Covenant (9:18-22)
- ▶ Death and the New Covenant (9:23-28)

The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- ▶ A last will, or a covenant?
- ▶ Hebrew: *BERIT* – one or two sided contract
- ▶ Greek: *diatheke* – one sided, and typically a will
- ▶ New Testament uses *diatheke* for Old Testament covenants
- ▶ English translation of Heb 9:16-17
 - Covenant – NASB
 - Testament – NASB95, KJV (AV), NKJV, Geneva – testament
 - Will – ESV, CSB, LEB

The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- ▶ Contemporary context – Covenants in Ugarit
- ▶ Biblical context – 3 Covenants
 - Abrahamic Covenant – the promises
 - Mosaic or Old Covenant – human obligation
 - New Covenant – Divine provision

The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- ▶ Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15:8-21)
 - Promise made to Abraham by God (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - Abraham requested a sign of the promise (Genesis 15:8)
 - Covenant made – smoking oven and flaming torch
 - Covenant requires death of God

The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- ▶ Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 24:1-8)
 - Promise made to God by Israel (Exodus 19:5)
 - Covenant made by the people with God (24:3, 7-8)
 - Covenant ritual had animal death
 - Covenant requires the death of the people

The Necessity of Death (9:16-17)

- ▶ The New (Everlasting) Covenant
 - Made before the world began by God
 - Required the death of God (Jesus Christ)
 - The blood of the Everlasting Covenant (13:20)
- ▶ Covenant revealed initially as a promise in Genesis 3:15
- ▶ “A covenant is sure following death” (9:17, literal)
- ▶ Sin requires man’s death but God pledges His Own death

Death and the Old Covenant (9:18-22)

- ▶ Exodus 24:1-8 – The Old Covenant established
- ▶ Sacrifices
 - Blood sprinkled on the altar and the people
 - Hebrews adds the book, the tabernacle and all vessels of ministry
- ▶ “Behold, this is the blood of the covenant . . .”
 - Animal blood cleanses where sprinkled (9:23)
 - Animal blood does not take away sin (10:4)
- ▶ An exercise in futility
 - Temporarily averted the wrath of God
 - Had to be continued, or they would be evicted from the land
 - No final forgiveness of sins or purification
 - No escape from death
- ▶ A weak, useless and faulty service – but required

Death and the New Covenant (9:23-28)

- ▶ A better sacrifice is needed and provided
- ▶ High Priest mediated for us before God
- ▶ High Priest ministered in the heavenly tabernacle
- ▶ Only had to appear once – a sufficient sacrifice
- ▶ He put away sin by His death

Death and the New Covenant (9:23-28)

- ▶ The sacrifice of Christ cleansed “the heavenly things” (9:23)
- ▶ Day of Atonement (Lev 16:14-16)
 - Blood sprinkled on the mercy seat
 - Atonement made for the holy place
- ▶ Why cleansing in heaven?
 - Habakkuk 1:13 – God too pure to even look upon evil
 - Job 1:6 – Satan had access to presence of God
 - Ephesians 6:12 – “. . . spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.”
 - Romans 8:38-39 – “. . . nor principalities . . . nor powers
 - Colossians 2:15 – disarmed rulers and authorities
 - Colossians 1:19-20 – things in heaven and earth

Christ Will Appear for Salvation (9:27-28)

- ▶ An appointment with death and judgment
- ▶ Christ removed the power of death (2:14-15)
- ▶ Christ removed the threat of judgment
- ▶ An appointment with salvation at His coming

One Final Complete Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:15

- ▶ The Mediator of a new and better Covenant
- ▶ His death redeems from sin
- ▶ His death guarantees eternal life