

# *Hebrews: A Bridge from the Old to the New*

## *Hebrews Chapter 10a*

### **Jesus Christ: A Superior Priesthood – A Better Sacrifice (Verses 1-25)**

#### *Taking Away instead of Covering Sins (Verses 1-10)*

- 1** The Levitical system of laws is a shadow (pale reflection) of the true salvation that came through the sacrifice of Christ <sup>Romans 8:1-4, [Colossians 2:16-17](#)</sup>. As much as the faithful who were under the law desired obedience, the OT laws provided no way to obtain perfection, which is required to be in God's presence <sup>Psalm 24:3-6</sup>.
- 2-4** In addition, the OT system did not provide a clear conscience <sup>Hebrews 9:9, 10:22, 13:18</sup> ("cleansed" from guilt). The lack of a peaceful conscience, as well as the repetition of the Levitical sacrifices <sup>[Leviticus 16:34](#)</sup>, were simply constant reminders of sin. The blood of animals had no ability to remove sins and was only a foreshadowing of the ultimate and complete sacrifice of Jesus' blood <sup>Galatians 3:23-25</sup>. Surprisingly, the OT prophets were aware of <sup>[Jeremiah 31:34b](#) ⇒ [Hebrews 8:12](#)</sup> and looked forward to the "grace" to come <sup>[1 Peter 1:10-11](#)</sup>.
- 5-7** These three verses were quoted from the Septuagint version of a Davidic psalm <sup>Psalm 40:6-8</sup> that emphasized God's displeasure at sacrifices offered without a sincere heart of obedience <sup>[1 Samuel 15:22](#), [Isaiah 1:13](#), [Hosea 6:6](#)</sup>. To 'sacrifice' (also think to 'worship') only as a ritual without obedience, was/is a mockery and worse than no sacrifice at all <sup>[Isaiah 1:10-18](#)</sup>. The psalm made the point that God the Father prepared a body for His Son, so that Jesus could offer Himself as the final sacrifice <sup>[1 Peter 2:24](#)</sup>. Jesus' main desire has always been to do the will of His Father <sup>[Matthew 26:39, 42](#)</sup>, and partly as a pattern for believers to follow <sup>[John 10:17-18](#), [15:9-10](#)</sup>.
- 8-9** The author repeated a condensed version of the same psalm <sup>Psalm 40:6-8</sup>, emphasizing the foolishness of sacrifices without sincerity (love <sup>[Mark 12:33](#)</sup>) and the desire of Jesus to please His Father <sup>[John 4:34](#), [5:30](#), [6:38](#)</sup>. Christ removed the old, repetitious sacrificial system to make way for His new, once-for-all sacrifice.
- 10** Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father by sacrificing Himself <sup>[Ephesians 5:1-2](#)</sup>, and positionally "made holy" (*hagiazō*: sanctified) <sup>[John 17:19](#)</sup> all who accept this gift <sup>[1 Thessalonians 4:3](#)</sup>. However, in order to be sanctified in a practical sense (i.e., gaining a purified and holy life <sup>[2 Corinthians 7:1](#), [Ephesians 4:24](#)</sup>), a Christian must use the power of the Holy Spirit <sup>[1 Thessalonians 3:13](#)</sup> to offer their body as a living sacrifice to God <sup>[Romans 6:19](#), [12:1-2](#)</sup>.

### *Once-for-all instead of a Repeated Sacrifice (Verses 11-18)*

**11-12** The Levitical priests “stood” ‘day after day’ and ‘again and again’ to offer sacrifices. All three of these images reflect the incomplete work of the OC priests, but here <sup>v.11-14</sup>, the main emphasis of the author was on the fact that the priests were always standing. He then offered the contrast of Jesus (“this priest”) who completed His work and sat down <sup>Mark 16:19, Hebrews 1:3</sup>. As an illustration of this, King Solomon ‘sat’ on his throne <sup>2 Chronicles 6:10</sup>, but when he dedicated the temple he built, he ‘stood’ before the altar <sup>2 Chronicles 6:12</sup>.

**13-14** These verses affirm the prophecy that everyone will recognize Jesus as sovereign <sup>Psalm 110:1, 1 Peter 3:21-22</sup>. His position as the ultimate king is the result of His perfect obedience to the Father’s plan <sup>Philippians 2:6-11</sup>.

**15-17** The author confirmed his interpretation <sup>v.8-14</sup> of the psalm passage <sup>Psalm 40:6-8</sup> by giving the Holy Spirit credit for inspiring and by quoting an earlier passage <sup>Hebrews 8:8-12</sup> from Jeremiah <sup>Jeremiah 31:31-34</sup>, in which God promised to place His law into the minds and hearts <sup>Deuteronomy 6:6, 2 Corinthians 3:3</sup> of His followers, and also promised to not hold them accountable for their sins <sup>Psalm 103:11-12</sup>.

**18** The author finished the discussion by stating that the forgiveness of sins ended the need for more sacrifices.

### *Direct Access to God instead of through the High Priest (Verses 19-25)*

**19-20** The author, speaking to other believers (“brothers”), reminded them they may approach God <sup>Ephesians 2:18</sup> with confidence <sup>Ephesians 3:12</sup>, because Jesus made a way (the only way) for His followers to enter into the presence of God the Father: through the sacrificial offering of His body <sup>Matthew 27:51</sup>.

**21-22** Jesus, our “great [high] priest”, is over God’s house (believers <sup>1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:21-22, 1 Timothy 3:15</sup>) The New Covenant encourages an intimate relationship with God that was not an important part of the OC (although mentioned by David <sup>Psalm 15</sup> and others <sup>Psalm 73:28, Jeremiah 30:18-22</sup>). However, closeness with God can be a reality for those who have their hearts sprinkled with blood <sup>Exodus 24:8, 1 Peter 1:2</sup> and their bodies washed with “pure water” <sup>Ezekiel 36:25, Acts 22:14-16, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Titus 3:3-5, 1 Peter 3:18-22</sup>.

**23** Holding on (“hold unswervingly”) <sup>1 Thessalonians 5:21, Hebrews 3:6</sup> is the human side of eternal security, but God’s promises secure us <sup>John 5:24, 6:37-39, 10:27-29, Ephesians 1:13-14</sup> and are unailing <sup>Numbers 23:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24</sup>.

**24** The author reminded the first century Messianic Jews who were being persecuted, that not only are they to maintain their faith by doing good <sup>Galatians 6:9-10, Titus 3:8</sup>, but also to encourage one another <sup>1 Thessalonians 5:11</sup>.

**25** In addition to personal worship, gathering together in corporate worship <sup>Acts 2:42</sup> is vital for gaining strength and the strengthening of others, because “the Day [is] approaching” <sup>1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2</sup>. the glorious return of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ <sup>Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:7, 19:11-16</sup>.

**Leviticus 16:34** "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites." And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**Deuteronomy 6:6** These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

**1 Samuel 15:22** Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

**Psalms 110:1** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

**Jeremiah 31:34b** "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

**Matthew 27:51a** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

**Mark 12:33** To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

**Mark 16:19** After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

**Luke 21:27** At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

**John 6:38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

**John 15:10** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**John 17:19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

**Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Acts 22:16b** Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

**Galatians 6:9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

**Ephesians 3:12** In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**Ephesians 4:24** ...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Colossians 2:16-17** Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3a** It is God's will that you should be sanctified...

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** ...encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** Test everything. Hold on to the good.

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

**1 Peter 1:10-11** Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

**1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

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