

**The Greater Sacrifice
(Chapter 10)**

"the law" (1)

-The entire Levitical system

"shadow" (1)

-Heb 8:5; Col 2:16-17

"every year" (1,3)

-Reference to the Day of Atonement (Lev 16)

-Evidence that animal sacrifices were just a shadow of the "good things" and "true form" (1) to come.

"Christ...said"

-This Psalm is attributed to David
-The author views it as prophetically anticipating Christ's words at his incarnation

(1) Sacrifices

(2) Offerings

(3) Burnt offerings

(4) Sin offerings

-Four terms taken together are probably meant as a summary of the main kinds of Levitical sacrifice

"once for all"

"single sacrifice"

"single offering"

It matters immensely that this one offering avails for all people at all times...Contrasts sharply with the sacrifices under the old covenant.

Jer 31:33-34

-Heb 8:8-12

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The Greater Covenant (Chapters 8 to 10)

¹For since *the law* has but a *shadow* of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can *never*, by the *same sacrifices* that are continually offered *every year*, *make perfect* those who draw near.

²Otherwise, would they not have *ceased* to be offered, since the worshipers, *having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins*? ³But in these *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins *every year*. ⁴For it is *impossible* for the blood of bulls and goats to *take away sins*. <- *There is no way forward through the blood of animals.*

⁵Consequently, when *Christ* came into the world, he *said*, *"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'*" <- *Will: Isa 53:10; Mt 26:36-46*

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in *sacrifices* and *offerings* and *burnt offerings* and *sin offerings*" (these are offered *according to the law*), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come *to do your will*." He *does away with the first in order to establish the second*. ¹⁰And by that will we have been *sanctified* through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*. ¹¹And every priest stands *daily at his service*, offering *repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins*. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a *single sacrifice* for sins, he sat down at the *right hand of God*, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a *single offering* he has perfected for all time those who are being *sanctified*.

¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶"*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,*" ¹⁷then he adds, "*I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.*" <- *Heb 8:6*

¹⁸Where there is *forgiveness* of these, there is *no longer any offering for sin*. <- *Heb 10:2*

"never...make perfect" (1)

"impossible...to take away sins" (4)

"can never take away sins" (11)

-Heb 8:7 "if that first covenant had been faultless"

-Heb 9:9 "cannot perfect the conscience"

-If the sacrifices of the Levitical system could forgive sins, then those sacrifices would have "ceased" (2)

Ps 40:6-8

"body have you..."

-Hebrew says, "ears you have dug for me."

-Author is quoting from the LXX

-Possibly interpretive translation by LXX translators

Animal sacrifices were commanded in God's law and must be offered. But they were not God's final will nor God's answer to the problem of sin.

Right Hand of God

-Psa 110:1

-Mark 16:19

-Luke 22:69

-Acts 2:33; 5:31

-Rom 8:34

-Eph 1:20

-Col 3:1

-Heb 1:3; 8:1;

10:12; 12:2

-1Pe 3:22

Hebrews Chapter 10 - Questions for Discussion

What was the law a “shadow” of? (v. 1)

- To leave Christ in favor of Judaism would be to forsake
the _____ for a _____

What did the Old Testament sacrifices remind the worshipers of? (vv. 2,3)

What was not possible with the blood of bulls and goats? What would have happened if these sacrifices had been able to bring about perfection? (vv. 2-4)

What did Christ come to this world to do? (v. 9)

What did Christ take away? What did He establish? (v. 9)

What did Christ do after He made His sacrifice? Why? What is Christ waiting for right now? (vv. 12-13)

What are the primary differences between the levitical sacrifices and the sacrifice of Jesus? (vv. 8-14)

How does the Holy Spirit “witness” to us? (v. 15)

How does verse 18 aid the overall argument of the author in the book?

Teacher's Notes

“shadow” (1)

Hebrews 8:5 (ESV)

⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

Colossians 2:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

“every year” (1,3)

Leviticus 16 (ESV)

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died, ² and the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. ³ But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴ He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. ⁵ And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶ “Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. ⁷ Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. ⁹ And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, ¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

¹¹ “Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. ¹² And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil ¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. ¹⁴ And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy

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seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵ “Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. ¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. ¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. ¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

²⁰ “And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. ²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. ²² The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

²³ “Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there. ²⁴ And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people. ²⁵ And the fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar. ²⁶ And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. ²⁷ And the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. Their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire. ²⁸ And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

²⁹ “And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you. ³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins. ³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever. ³² And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father’s place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments. ³³ He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. ³⁴ And

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this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.” And Aaron did as the LORD commanded Moses.

“never...make perfect” (1)

“impossible...to take away sins” (4)

“can never take away sins” (11)

Hebrews 8:7 (ESV)

⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Hebrews 9:9 (ESV)

⁹ (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,

Consequently

Psalm 40:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.

⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.”

Will

Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Matthew 26:36–46 (ESV)

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the

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two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

Right Hand of God

Psalms 110:1 (ESV)

¹ The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Mark 16:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Luke 22:69 (ESV)

⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Acts 2:33 (ESV)

³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Acts 5:31 (ESV)

³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Ephesians 1:20 (ESV)

²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

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Colossians 3:1 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 8:1 (ESV)

¹ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Hebrews 10:12 (ESV)

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Enemies...footstool

Psalm 110:1 (ESV)

¹ The LORD says to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Hebrews 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ And to which of the angels has he ever said,
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

Holy Spirit

Jeremiah 31:33–34 (ESV)

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from

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the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Hebrews 8:8–12 (ESV)

⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,

⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

For they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.”

Better Promises

Hebrews 8:6 (ESV)

⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.