

## **Nothing but the Blood** **Hebrews 9:1-15 (Lord's Supper 7/13/08 AM)**

Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper at the end of the observance of the Passover in the upper room. [Matthew 26:27-28](#), "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"."

In the New Testament the blood of Jesus has both a literal and theological meaning. Jesus literally shed His blood for us when He was scourged and crucified. The literally shedding of His blood is the basis for the theological meaning of His shed blood. The majority of references in the New Testament refer to the theological meaning. It expresses His complete atoning work of suffering and death upon the cross.

### **1. The Illustration in the Old Testament**

#### ***God's Ordained Method of Atonement***

- **Ordained In Eden**

When Adam and Eve sinned against God they were ashamed of their nakedness. They attempted to cover themselves but God provided their covering.

[Genesis 3:21](#), "Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."

- **Declared Through Abel**

[Genesis 4:4](#), "Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering."

Noah, Abraham, and all of the patriarchs built altars and sacrificed animals to atone for their sins.

- **Decreed Through Moses**

[Hebrews 9:22](#), "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."

**The Sacrifices of the Old Testament Looked Forward by Faith to the Sacrifice of the Promised Redeemer**

## 2. The Imagery of the Tabernacle (1-10)

### *The Focus Is Upon the Holy of Holies*

Every aspect and item of the Tabernacle is “symbolic” (9). The writer of Hebrews uses the Tabernacle rather than the Temple to illustrate his point. The Tabernacle was more temporary in its construction. The Tabernacle was surrounded by an enclosed courtyard. The Tabernacle itself was in two parts. The writer takes us into the first sanctuary in [verse 2](#). The priests would enter this area daily ([6](#)). He takes us into the inner sanctuary in [verses 3-4](#).

#### • **The Access To God Was Restricted**

A veil separated the most holy place. [Leviticus 16:2](#), “and the Lord said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.” The priests did not dare enter that area because the Shekinah glory of God rested upon the Ark of the Covenant. ([7](#)) “But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year”. This was on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month. ([8](#)) “the way into the Holiest of all was not yet made manifest..” Unhindered access to God was not yet possible.

#### • **The Blood Was Absolutely Necessary**

([8](#)) “not without blood which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.” [Leviticus 16](#) describes in detail God’s commands to the High Priest. He was to put on his linen garments only. This pictures Christ in the incarnation. Without the blood the High Priest would have been slain [Romans 6:23](#), “For the wages of sin is death”. The shedding of blood indicates death. [Leviticus 17:11](#), “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

#### • **The Cleansing Was Imperfect**

([9](#)) “gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience.” He could never have a clear conscience about his sin. He could not possess an abiding sense of complete forgiveness. God provided these sacrifices to atone or cover the sins of the people until Christ

came. (10) “..until the time of reformation”. The word means to make straight, to make right. These sacrifices could never make men right before God.

### **The Tabernacle Was a Portrait of Jesus But Could Not Accomplish The Work Of Jesus**

#### 3. **The Reality of Jesus Christ (11-12)**

##### *The Cross Is an Historical Reality*

- **The High Priest Is Jesus**

(11) “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come”

Jesus came to intercede for us to the father. When He died the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. John 14:6, “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".”

Part of Jesus’ continuing ministry for us is intercession.

Romans 8:34-35, “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

- **The Sanctuary Is Heaven**

(11) “with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.”

Hebrews 1:3, “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”

- **The Blood Is His Entire Work Of Redemption**

(12) “but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all having obtained eternal redemption.”

Unlike former High Priests Jesus completed His work only once.

Hebrews 10:11-14, “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, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

### **Jesus Is the Only Priest and His Blood the Only Sacrifice That God Accepts**

#### 4. The Eternal Work of Jesus (12-15)

##### *The Temporary Has Become Eternal*

- **Eternal Salvation**

(12) “having obtained eternal redemption”

1 Peter 1:18-20, “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

When the sinner accepts by faith what Jesus has done on their behalf they are eternally saved.

Hebrews 7:24-25, “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

- **Eternal Purification**

(14) “who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

The Old Covenant cleansed on the outside but Christ cleanses us from the inside. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- **Eternal Inheritance**

(15) “that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”

John 10:28-30, “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.”

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**The Only Sure Secure Eternity Is By the Blood of Jesus**