

**The Book of Hebrews
Session Nine
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Hebrews 1:1 - 8:6a: a comparison of Jesus Christ, stating his superiority, to the founders of the Old Covenant. Hebrews 8:6b – 10:39: the two Covenants compared.

Chapter Ten

Verses 1-4 show the blood of animals can not take away sin.

Verse 1 – “shadow” – an outline giving a glimpse. “image” – exact reality “perfect” – complete, lacking nothing, the end for which it is intended.

Verse 2 – “purged” – cleansed “consciousness” – conscience, in the renewed mind.

Verse 3 – “remembrance” – a calling to mind. These animal sacrifices should have brought to mind man’s need for a savior. They offered some limited cleansing and forgiveness of sins, as well as offering limited, temporary access to God. (See pages 12 – 14, Jesus Christ Our Approach Offering, by David Bergey)

Verses 5–7 – a citation from Psalm 40: 6-8. Psalm 40:6 says, “...mine ears hast Thou opened.” Compare to Hebrews 10:5, “... a body hast Thou prepared me.” Figure of speech *metonymy* – a part put for the whole. Psalms emphasizes obedience, i.e. hearing to do. Hebrews emphasizes the sacrifice of his body. “Offerings and sacrifices” – God originally did desire, or he wouldn’t have set them up in the first place. The writer of Psalms – David – helped re-institute Temple worship, priesthood and sacrifices (1 Chronicles 23-26.) It was the misuse, ignorance and hypocrisy in which God took no pleasure.

Verse 8 – “above” – referring back to verse 5.

Verse 9 – He took away the First, not by destroying it, but by fulfilling the Law (Matthew 5:17, 18.) With the establishment of the Second, the First is taken away.

Verse 10 – “sanctified” – set apart for God, made holy

Verse 11 – Animal sacrifices were presently being offered at the time of the writing of Hebrews. This definitively puts this book prior to 70 AD, when the Temple was destroyed. “standeth” – referring to the Levites’ imperfect work.

Verse 12 – “sat down” – the completed work of Christ, contrasted with the on going, imperfect work of the Levitical priests.

Verse 13 – “his enemies be made his footstool” in the next, sixth administration. Until then, Jesus is seated on the right hand of God. Citation of Psalm 110:1.

Verse 14 – “perfected” – completed. “sanctified” – set apart, made holy for God.

Verse 15 – Most believe “Holy Ghost” refers to God. But the gift of holy spirit in manifestation (by speaking in tongues) witnesses to our sonship and to the New Covenant of the spirit.

Verse 16, 17 – The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34.)

Verse 18 – Our sins are gone! No more offering needed.

Verse 19 – The Beginning of the Practical Section of Hebrews

Some of its themes: Stand in light of the hope; Boldness to approach God; Believe now concerning Christ’s accomplishments; Fellowship with like-minded believers. Our entry through the veil: “boldness” – *parrhesia* – the right to make one’s thoughts known, to say what one will. It is a citizen’s privilege to express his opinions freely. We are citizens of heaven. Under the Old Covenant, it was available to enter through the veil only once a year by the high priest. Now it is our right continually and forever as a son of God. It is “by his blood.”

Verse 20 – “new” – newly slain, freshly slaughtered, referring to his crucifixion. “living” – he lives by resurrection. “consecrated” – inaugurated, initiated. “flesh” – verse 19 refers to his blood. The two basic elements of all sacrifices are blood and flesh.

Verse 21 – Jesus Christ, the high priest over the house of God.

Verse 22 “draw near” – approach with the full assurance of believing concerning Christ. “sprinkled” – cleansed. “washed” – no sin stains. We are righteous and sanctified.

Verse 23 – “profession” – confession, that of Romans 10:9, 10. Not to return to the Law for justification. “faith” – hope. God is faithful to deliver on His promise of sending His son.

Verse 24 – “provoke” – an inciting, stimulation.

Verse 25 – “forsaking” – abandoning. “assembling ...together” – *episunagogue* – has one other use, in II Thessalonians 2:1 – “gathering together.”

Verse 26-31, 39-extremely stern warning against returning to Old Covenant practices and rejecting Christ. Jesus Christ had prophesied of the destruction of the Temple. Luke 19:43; 21:5, 6. The complete and utter destruction of all Jewish buildings in Jerusalem was achieved by the Roman General Titus in 70 A.D. (See The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot, by Ernest L. Martin.)

Verses 32-34 – Persecution of the Hebrew believers by the Jews. Acts 6:9-15; 8:1-3 – a great persecution; 9:1,2,23-25; 12:1-6 – James and Peter; 13:50; 14:4,5,19,20; 15:1.

Verse 34 – “me ...my” – delete; not in text.

Verses 35-38 – In the face of persecution, stand and believe God’s Word. The anchor: he is coming back! Believe God in light of the Hope.