



Jesus' Better Sacrifice and His Better Covenant

Lesson Thirty • Hebrews 9:15-22

BETTER MEDIATOR Like Melchizedek 7:1-28	BETTER MINISTRY in Heaven 8:1-6	BETTER COVENANT with Better Promises 8:7-13	BETTER SANCTUARY Not Made by Man 9:1-14	BETTER SACRIFICE Himself Once for All Time 9:15-28	BETTER PERFECTION by Christ's Sacrifice 10:1-18
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ENTERS the Holy of Holies to **SIT & SERVE** as a **SON** Made Perfect Forever to be a **PRIEST KING** with a Better Ministry **according to** a Better Covenant **in** a Better Sanctuary **by** a Better Sacrifice **for** a Better Perfection!

What Can Take Away My Sin? Nothing But the Blood of Jesus!

"The sacrificial bloodshed on the Day of Atonement showed that only a substitute's death could sustain the covenant between the Lord and his sinning people. This covenant was a solemn commitment of all-encompassing, exclusive loyalty. To violate it meant incurring the curse of a violent, shameful death. This sanction was portrayed graphically when ancient covenants were ratified using slain animals' carcasses and blood, illustrating the destruction that would befall covenant breakers. Moses used blood to inaugurate the first covenant at Sinai, but slain animals could not undergo God's curse in the place of guilty humans. Only Christ's death was able to avert the punishment our treason deserves and to secure for us the eternal inheritance we had forfeited." – Dennis E. Johnson

Jesus' Better Sacrifice in Relation to...		
9:15-22	9:23-28	10:1-18
the Better Covenant Again!	the Better Sanctuary Again!	the Results of His Better Sacrifice: Perfection of His Waiting Worshipers!

Jesus' Better Sacrifice and His Better Covenant

1. Jesus' Better Sacrifice Makes Him the MEDIATOR of the New Covenant.

"For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant," (9:15a)

Why Is Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant?

- Because His sacrificial blood can cleanse the INNER HEART of the worshiper. (v. 14; 8:10)

From What Does Jesus' Blood Cleanse Us?

- From works that LEAD to death. (v. 14b, 6:1)
- From works that are LIFELESS.

For What Does Jesus' Blood Cleanse Us?

To SERVE in the presence of the living God as believer-priests. (v. 14b, 12:28)

- Because His sacrificial death makes Him BOTH the **Guarantee** and the **Mediator** of a better covenant with better promises. (7:21-22; 8:6-7)

2. Jesus' Better Sacrifice CLEANSSES Sins Under the Broken Old Covenant.

"so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant," (9:15bc)

- Jesus' sacrificial death doesn't simply cover PAST sins, it *cleanses* them once-for-all-time! (v.15b; 8:12)
- Jesus' sacrificial death cleanses all who are CALLED: Past, present, and future! (v.15c; 8:12)

Christ entered the heavenly Holy of Holies so He could be the Source of **eternal salvation** (5:9) and sinners could avoid **eternal judgment** (6:2) and be given **eternal redemption** (9:12) through the **eternal Spirit** (9:14) and enjoy an **eternal inheritance** (9:15) all based on the blood of the **eternal covenant** (13:20)!

3. Jesus' Better Sacrifice SATISFIES the Curse of Death Under the Old Covenant.

"For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives." (vv. 16-17)

Problem: Is the pastor-teacher still speaking about *biblical covenants* or *Greco-Roman testament* as an illustration?

Solution? Verses 16–17 are *NOT* describing *how one establishes a covenant* but *what must be done when a covenant is broken*. These verses explain how the "death" spoken of in verse 15 provides for "redemption from the transgressions committed under" that First — *and now broken* — Covenant.

➤ Death is the **CONSEQUENCE** of breaking a blood covenant. (vv. 16-17)

Possible Paraphrases

"For where there is a [broken, v. 15] covenant, the death of the covenant-maker must be borne. For a blood covenant is valid only with dead bodies..." (vv. 16-17b, See Peter O'Brien, Hebrews, Pillar Commentary)

¹⁶ For we know that it is the nature of a covenant that the one who ratifies a covenant cannot do so without a death being set forth. ¹⁷ We understand that a covenant is in force only on the basis of the death of animal sacrifices; it never takes effect while the one who made it is ritually living. ¹⁸ Therefore it is the case that the first covenant was not put into effect without a death being involved." (Doug Moo, Hebrews, ECNT though he leans toward the use of "testament")

➤ All the shed and sprinkled blood under the Old Covenant was a continual a **REMINDER** that without a sacrificial death there is no forgiveness. (vv. 18-22; Exodus 24)

Blood Was Shed and Sprinkled Everywhere Under the Old Covenant

1. Covenant **MEMBERS**: Moses sprinkled blood on the Book of the Law and on the people. (vv. 18–20)

2. Covenant **MINISTRY**: Moses sprinkled blood on the tabernacle and all the worship utensils. (v. 21)

All Things Must Someday Be Cleansed by Blood or There Is No Forgiveness!

God Himself Will **COMPLETE** what He commanded through Christ just as He promised in the Abrahamic Covenant!

(A) even the first was not inaugurated without blood (v. 18)

(B) according to the law (v. 19a)

(C) he sprinkled both the books itself and the people (v. 19b)

(D) THIS IS the BLOOD of the COVENANT which GOD COMMANDED (& COMPLETED!) (v. 20)

(C1) he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels (v. 21)

(B1) according to the law (v. 22a)

(A1) all things are cleansed with blood, without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (v. 22b)

(See O'Brien, Hebrews, 327.)

"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'" Matthew 26:26-29

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:23-26