



June 7, 2026

Anchored in Blood

Hebrews 9:11-14 (ESV)

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) **12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. **13** For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, **14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

- A reproduction isn't reality, but it points us to the reality.
- The Iwo Jima memorial isn't the real moment that happened, but it points us to the real moment in time that absolutely did.
- That is roughly the message of Hebrews 9.
- The author of Hebrews has told us from the beginning that God's ultimate self revelation was through his Son.
- In 1-2, The prophets and the angels can't be compared to the "radiance of God's glory."
- In 3-4, The promised rest God's people got in the promised land was nothing compared to the rest that is experienced in Jesus.

- In 5,6,7, The priesthood is imperfect and insufficient. Jesus is our perfect and totally sufficient High Priest.
- In 8, The old covenant is obsolete and outdated when compared to the new covenant mediated by Jesus.
- In 9, today, we're going to get more of the same. The tabernacle isn't sufficient. The sacrifices made in the tabernacle aren't sufficient.
- All of these things are just an approximation pointing us to the real thing.

Hebrews 9 gives us a quick tour of the tabernacle.

- Hebrews talks about the rooms in the tabernacle, the furniture, and summarizes the work that the priests did inside the tabernacle.
- The priests offered sacrifices, the blood of bulls and goats, to cover both their sins and the sins of the people.
- These things were significant, but only because they pointed to a greater truth beyond themselves.
- Look at verse 8-10. He says the tabernacle is an illustration. The whole thing is an elaborate picture of sacrifice and forgiveness, but only a picture. Never the real thing.
- All this ritual and work by the priests couldn't actually cleanse anyone's conscience.
- Hebrews 10:1-4 (ESV) *For 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. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

Hebrews is calling out the futility here.

- Sacrifices never fixed the problem.
- They just reminded a person that they were a sinner.
- The blood of bulls and goats can never actually take away sins. Their blood only anticipated the blood of a perfect sacrifice to come.

The law in Leviticus is all about being cleansed.

- So there are all these incredible rules. And they are connected to the tabernacle.
- Break the rules, and you could not go in to the Tabernacle and worship.
- All of this is about ceremonial cleanliness. You had to be utterly clean: no dirt, no discharge, no infection, or you couldn't go in to worship God.
- If you're talking with someone who smells horrible or looks horrible...you might be polite about it...but everything in you just wants to run away and as fast as possible. Why? That's what uncleanness does to us.
- What about God? How does God see our uncleanness? A: He's repulsed by it, just like you are repulsed by physical uncleanness.
- And it means we're guilty. It means we're unfit for the presence of a holy God.
- Something has to be done for us to be cleansed.

Look at our text. Focus in on 9:11-12. The solution is here.

- Who is it? Christ. Jesus Christ who appeared as a high priest and went into the presence of God.
- He secured for us an eternal redemption. Not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood.
- When Hebrews mentions “goats and calves” he’s taking us to Yom Kippur. The Day of Atonement. It’s in Leviticus 16.
- According to that chapter, every year the same thing happened.
- The high priest was the only one who could stand before God and make atonement (AT-ONE-MENT) for the sins of the people and himself with a blood sacrifice.
- One week before this, every year, the high priest would go into seclusion. He couldn’t touch anyone who had touched anything wrong, or had a rash, or had bad breath. So he hid from everyone.
- And he prayed. And he fasted. And he purified his heart.
- The night before the big day, he stayed up all night to pray and the people prayed for him.
- Somewhere in these last hours, he would wash three times. And after he would wash, he would dress, each time, in clean, white, linen, beautiful, costly, impeccable garments.
- Only in this way can he go in and make atonement for the sins of the people.

I want to show you what I found this week that’s tightly connected to all this.

- It’s Zechariah 3. Zechariah is a prophet that gets lost at the back of the OT. But he has a vision. And he’s shocked by it.
- The text says, “He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Lord.” Note that he’s standing before the Lord. The only time a high priest could do that was on Yom Kippur.
- Zechariah is dumbfounded. He sees that Joshua the high priest is not in his perfectly tailored clothes. He’s not even cleansed. It’s the opposite. He’s clothed in filthy garments. (3:3)
- How in the world could this happen?
- Remember, it’s a vision. So God is doing something for Zechariah. What he’s doing is giving him a picture of what we really look like in his eyes.
- No matter how perfect our clothes may seem, we still look like we’re covered in filth to God.
- Zechariah is sure of what this will bring. God’s wrath. He’s bracing for it.
- In the vision, Zechariah is equally dumbfounded to hear the voice of God say, *Take off his filthy clothes. Just like this, I will take your sin off of you and clothe you in the finest of clothes.*
- And God tells Zechariah how he will do this. *I will bring my servant, the Branch, and the sin of the land will be removed in a single day.*
- God’s prophecy to Zechariah is all about the sacrificial system. It’s the same thing Hebrews tells us. The blood of goats and calves isn’t enough.
- In the future, my servant, the Branch, is going to make you clean. Once and for all clean.
- He’ll give you the finest clothes. He’ll make you presentable to me in my presence. And he’ll do all of this in a single day.
- You know the rest of the story.

- Centuries after Zechariah's vision, another Joshua came. Jesus.
- The night before he died he spent the whole praying. Why? Because the next day he would stand as a High Priest. He would stand before God and represent us.
- His friends took off on him. God turned his back on him. Nobody prayed for him or supported him.
- He wasn't clothed in fine vestments. He was stripped naked. He wasn't washed or bathed...except by the spit of the soldiers. He was covered in our filth on the cross.
- He was made unclean. Crucified outside the gate.
- He was being treated the way we should be treated. He took our uncleanness, our repulsiveness, on himself.
- He got our filth, so that we could get his righteousness. He secured for us an eternal redemption. Not by the blood of calves and goats, but by his own blood.

In the tabernacle, and in the temple, you'll never find a chair.

- The high priest never gets to sit. It's because his work is never done. (10:11)
- But watch what Jesus, the real and true high priest, gets to do. He comes and offers the once for all solution for sin, and then what? He sits down. (10:12)
- The sacrifice for sin is now complete. Jesus' work is finished.
- You and I have been made perfect forever by the one sacrifice of Jesus.

We would never look at the Iwo Jima Memorial, and say, *Because of this image of copper and granite, I am free.* No. We're free because real men sacrificed their lives. The statue just points to those heroes.

- In the same way, I'm not saved by anything I've tried to do to look good, or clean, or put together. No. I'm saved because Jesus offered his life, his blood for me.
- Any good that I do, just points to my Savior.

God, Jesus is better. He's better than sacrifices. He's better than trying harder. He's better than our strategies. He's better than our own efforts. He's better than rules. He's better than busy-ness. He's better than being religious. We seek access to you, the living and healing God. Remind us again, that the only way is through Jesus. In the name of our better, great high priest who secured for us an eternal redemption, Jesus, we pray, Amen.