



INTRODUCTION:

In **Chapter 9**, the author declares the superiority of the New Covenant to the Old by focusing upon their respective tabernacles. The tabernacle of the Old was earthly and symbolic; but, most importantly, its inner sanctuary was a closed chamber (**vv.1-10**). Beginning at **verse 11**, the author demonstrates the superiority of the New Covenant by expressing four things which Christ has done, so as to make it superior:

1. Christ has opened its inner sanctuary—**9:11-14**.
2. Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant—**9:15-22**.
3. Christ is the Perfect sacrifice—**9:23-28**.
4. Christ's offering is once-for-all—**10:1-18**.

LESSON:

I. HEBREWS 10:1-4

10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. *“The Jewish Law is not a full and faithful model of the real things; it is only a faint outline of the good things to come. The same sacrifices are offered forever, year after year. How can the Law, then, by means of these sacrifices make perfect the people who come to God?”* (GNT). It couldn't! ¹Year after year the priests came in and offered the same repetitious sacrifices for sin. It was only a shadow of who was the Perfect One to come. This ritual could never make the people clean to approach God. They had a consciousness of sin. This is not to say that the old religion was of no value. In all its parts it pointed to a more Perfect One who was to come. However, the people understood that God was holy. It told them that people could not come before a holy God with their sins. There were sacrifices offered for sins, and the sacrifices had to be perfect and flawless, but these sacrifices could not take their sins away, no matter how flawless they were. They could not make people clean in the sight of God. People still could not come directly to God by means of the sacrifice of animals.

10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. *“If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared”* (NLT). There were so many sacrifices which shows that they were not sufficient because if the worshiper was once purged (cleansed; sin removed) they would no longer have any conscience of sins or feelings of guilt.

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/hebrews-lbw.htm>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. The offering of animal sacrifices were actually a reminder of sins, not a remover of sins. Every time an offering was made, he was reminded that his sins stood between him and God. He had to be atoned time after time—forever—if he was ever to be acceptable to God!

10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. The offering of animal sacrifices were powerless to take away sins, powerless to make a person acceptable to God, powerless to give man fellowship and communion with God. Why?

- Animals have different natures than men. How could an animal's life stand and represent the life of a man?
- Animals are not the ones who willfully chose to sin, neglect and ignore, rebel and curse God. Therefore, they could not possibly pay the penalty and judgment of sin for man.
- Animals are of this earth, just as men are. Animals are corruptible, aging, and imperfect, just as man is. Therefore, an animal sacrifice can never be the perfect sacrifice needed to die for man's sins. The Perfect sacrifice for man must willingly die for man in order to be an acceptable substitute. Animal sacrifices for sins were victims, not willful substitutes.

That is why Jesus came to die for us. He is the only person who has ever lived without sin!

II. HEBREWS 10:5-7

10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:— So, when Jesus Christ came into the world, He said to God His Father, *“You did not want sacrifices and gifts, instead You prepared a body for Me.”*

Note, this was a conversation between Christ and God when Christ was coming into the world. The sacrifice of animals was totally inadequate in taking away the sins. Therefore, they did not please God. What then could take away sins. There was only one thing:

1. The Perfect Sacrifice was a body prepared by God Himself.

- a. He had to be Perfect, and He had to be Eternal (all past and all future sins). This is the reason for the great Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved us so much that He actually prepared a body and sent His own dear Son; the only Son that has the full and perfect nature of God the Father into this sinful and shameful world.

10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ²Burnt offerings were made for atonement and dedication to God, while sin offerings were specifically for unintentional sins. These offerings were central to the worship practices of ancient Israel and were performed at the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem. The sacrificial system was a foreshadowing of the Ultimate Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the law and the prophets. He values obedience and a heart aligned with His will more than mere ritual sacrifices. Therefore, burnt offerings and animal sacrifice for sin gave Him no delight and did not please Him.

10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. The writer shows Jesus speaking to God, in the words of Psalms Then I said, *“See, I have come to do what you, God, want me to do. This is what the book of the law says about me”* (Psalm 40:6-8).

² <https://biblehub.com/hebrews/10-6.htm>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

2. The Perfect Sacrifice was Jesus Christ doing the Will of God, and doing it perfectly!

We need to understand what this means. It was God who gave the law of Moses to His people. Sacrifices and gifts were a part of that law. What God wanted was hearts that obeyed him. The first command is that: *“You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might”* (Deuteronomy 6:5). He was looking for those who would obey the law, because they loved Him. He did not want acts of religion, without a change of heart and mind. Jesus came to do the work of God. That work was to pay the price for sin, so that God could forgive us.

III. HEBREWS 10:8-10

10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;— The Law teaches that offerings and sacrifices must be made because of sin. But why did Christ mention these things and say that God did not want them? (CEV). *“First Jesus Christ said, ‘You did not want sacrifices and offerings for sins. The law of Moses required them, but they did not please you.’”*

³This phrase highlights the comprehensive nature of the sacrificial system. Burnt offerings were entirely consumed by fire, symbolizing total dedication to God, while sin offerings were specifically for atonement. The law served as a tutor leading to Christ (Galatians 3:24), highlighting the need for a New Covenant established through Jesus, our atonement, who fulfills and transcends the Law. 1 John 2:2 says *“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world”* (NIV).

10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. Note: Jesus speaks, *“Here I am, and I have come to do what you want.”*

3. The Perfect Sacrifice made it necessary for God to take away the old sacrificial system, and establish the New Testament or Covenant with man.

⁴God did not want the offering of gifts and sacrifices of the law. It is true that they were part of the old agreement, but they did not please Him. God made a new agreement. By it, Jesus came to be the one Perfect Sacrifice that would please God. When Jesus died, God put an end to the old law of sacrifices. He replaced the old agreement (the law of Moses) with the new agreement (trust in Jesus). Jesus Christ took away the first testament, so that He might establish the second testament.

10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. God wants to make us holy. Jesus Christ has done this for us. He did it by giving His body, once for all time, as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf.

4. The Perfect Sacrifice sets us apart through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Jesus came to carry out God’s new plan to make us holy. When Jesus died, he had done all that God required. That one death is enough for all people, and for all time. Jesus will never have to die again. we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. This means a most wonderful thing. When a person comes to god by way of Jesus Christ, the

³ <https://biblehub.com/hebrews/10-8.htm>

⁴ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/hebrews-lbw.htm>

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

sacrifice of Christ is applied to the person. The Perfect Sacrifice of Jesus Christ covers the person's sins, and he is counted sinless by God. The person is not sinless, but is accepted as perfect by God. Therefore, the person can fellowship and commune with God; live with God both now and forever, day by day.

SUMMARY:

This begins with a comparison and concludes with a challenge—the blood of earthly lambs is compared with the blood of the heavenly Lamb. When people gathered for sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, they were reminded of their sins and felt guilty all over again. They only had animal sacrifices. ⁵Animal sacrifices could not take away sins; they provided only a temporary way to deal with sin until Jesus came to deal with it permanently. This was because the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin. God didn't want acts of religion, without a change of heart and mind (**10:1-4**).

⁶God made a body for Jesus to live in on earth. To take away our sins, there had to be the sacrifice of the body of a "Person." No animal was suitable for this purpose. The body, which means the whole person, had to be "Perfect." Jesus was that Perfect Person that could die for our sins. **The point:** God didn't take pleasure in the sacrifices and offerings, burnt offering and offerings for sin to suffice. They were all a part of the Mosaic Law, even instituted by God, they were only meant to point to Christ! Therefore, ⁷cancelling the first system in favor of a far better one means doing away with the system of sacrifices contained in the "Ceremonial Law", it doesn't mean eliminating God's moral Law. The "Ceremonial Law" prepared people for Christ's Coming. With Christ's Death and Resurrection, it was no longer needed. Through Christ we can fulfill the moral law as we allow Him to live in us (**10:5-10**).

⁵ <https://www.family-times.net/commentary/hebrews-101/>

⁶ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/hebrews-lbw.htm>

⁷ The Application Bible

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>