

Hebrews: The Crossing Point is a six part Adult Bible Study suitable for Small Groups or Private Study; Especially helpful to new believers in understanding God's overall plan for redemption through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews: I call it the "BETTER BOOK" because Jesus is better than....



Ron Singleterry Hebrews: The Crossing Point-Part 4
Adult Bible Study
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Hebrews: The Crossing Point

-Part 4

Hebrews Chapters 8, 9, and 10

Jesus: The Better Covenant [Chapter 8: 1-5]

In the Old Testament earthly priests offered the blood of animals but our **Great High Priest offered something much better; His own blood.**

Jesus, our Great High Priest, is the minister of the true tabernacle (sacred place). He is not a priest of a tabernacle made in the image of the real thing.

For Jesus to make a new covenant, He had to have something better to offer. He was/is the Real Sacrifice.

Hebrews 8:1

Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

All of the Old Testament sacrifices were a picture. In **Hebrews 8:5 "shadow of heavenly things"**, Moses was "admonished" to carefully follow the pattern that God gave him for the tabernacle.

Refer to:

Exodus 25-26 Do you think that God specified a particular kind of wood to overlay with gold just because it is his favorite tree? Of course not! Everything in God's pattern for the tabernacle has very specific meaning.

God cautions Moses because He does not want the picture of the greatest sacrifice, the greatest expression of love that will occur on this planet, to have flaws or be distorted. After all, the sacrifice is pure and perfect. He wants the picture to reflect that perfection.

Trail Note:

The Old Testament Sacrifices were the picture of Jesus' sacrifice.

Jesus: Mediator/Reconciler [Chapter 8: 6-13]

Hebrews 8:6-8

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Jesus reconciles us with the only sacrifice that will satisfy a pure, holy, and just God: His perfect life and selfless death as the ultimate blood sacrifice.

Why BLOOD? What sacrifice could be more meaningful? In this world's point of view, what is more meaningful than life? If someone sacrifices his life we call it the ultimate sacrifice, don't we?

Jesus: Better than the earthly Tabernacle [Chapter 9: 1-10]

The Old Testament earthly tabernacle had a courtyard bordered by sheets hung on rods supported by poles where anyone could come.

Within this courtyard was a structure that was divided into two rooms. The first room referenced in *Hebrews 9:2* is called the sanctuary where the following articles were kept:

1. Golden Candlestick
2. Table of Shewbread overlaid with gold
3. Brazen Altar

Trail Note:

We have crossed over from the Old Testament representations of atonement for sins to New Testament atonement which is no longer a representation but rather the Real Atonement.

Only a priest could enter the first room/sanctuary or Holy Place. This room was *busy daily* with the priest "*accomplishing the service of God*".

A veil divided the second room from the first. This second room was called the "Holiest of all" or in other scriptures the "*Holy of Holies*" and could only be entered *once each year* by the High Priest (Hebrew traditions indicate that a priest would only enter it once in his lifetime).

This inner room had the Ark of the Covenant that contained a golden pot with manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the stone tablets with the 10 commandments. The Mercy seat covered the ark and had two cherubims on the top with their wings spread.

The high priest would have to offer a sacrifice for his sins before he could enter the Holy of Holies to offer for the atonement of all.

*The fact that the earthly priest could not atone for sins because he was also sinful shows how this tabernacle was only a picture of what was to come: a **Great High Priest with a better tabernacle, His sinless body.***

Jesus: Great High Priest [Chapter 9: 11-15]

Jesus sinless life (godly perfection in a fleshly body) allowed Him to go into that better sanctuary **once** and offer His perfect blood to obtain **eternal** redemption. *Hebrews 9:11 "high priest of good things to come".*

Hebrews 9:11-12

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

God explains that the spotless or perfect flesh of Jesus Christ purged our conscience from dead works.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

*If anyone tries to tell you that your works will get you to Heaven take them to this verse. The guilt of our dead works is **purged!***

Verse 15 brings up the word "mediator" again. Remember that this word means reconciler or go between. Jesus is the Great High Priest in the Holy of Holies, seated at the right hand of the throne of God, pleading our case and showing that His blood not only covers our sins, but in God's eyes has washed our sin completely away. *[If that doesn't make you shout then check your pulse to see if you are alive!]*

Jesus: His will written in Blood [Chapter 9: 16-28]

The legal document we call a "Last Will and Testament" allows us to give instructions to our survivors after we leave this world. This "Will" does not allow others to come take our belongings before we die. Rather, it is instructions we leave behind for others.

When my wife, Francine, and I moved to Texas we had a "Will" written so that we could leave instructions for our children. However, our wills do not mean anything as long as we are alive. While alive we can take care of our business, but after we have died our "Last Will and Testament" will be carried out as we planned.

Once I became born-again I belong to the Lord; His Testament insures that He has control over eternity because of His death and Resurrection. This is the illustration depicted in Verses 16 and 17.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Trail Note:

Moses put the Old Testament into effect with blood of animals.

Jesus alone can Justify [Chapter 10: 1-18]

The Law is only a shadow of what Jesus did, it is not the actual thing that brought forgiveness of sin. The law can NEVER make anyone perfect or justified. If the sacrifices under the law could have cleansed us then Jesus would not have needed to come. Would God the Father inflict the limitations and pain on His Son if the law could save?

Hebrews 10: 5-9 are a paraphrase of Ps. 40: 6-8. Multiple places in the Old Testament are prophesies of Jesus' coming.

The author bluntly states that the job of the Old Testament priests did not accomplish anything eternal.

Trail Note:

Think about how mankind has substituted some action or some icon in place of what God intended for the true Church.

It was in some sense only vain work: The only value was in the picture that it represents (Jesus made one sacrifice for all and then sat down at the right hand of God-verse 12).

*Hebrews 10:16 reminds me of 1 Sam. 2: 35. The Lord is the one that puts His Laws in our heart and mind. He said of Samuel that He would put **His heart** and **His mind** in Samuel.*

If we keep this in mind, it would keep us from ever getting proud and looking down on others that are "not as Holy as us".

Hebrews 10:17 is a comforting verse. When we continually feel bad about a particular sin and can't seem to forgive ourselves we should turn to this verse and read that God will not remember our sins and iniquities.

*When we are convicted about sin, which the Holy Spirit does, we need to confess it and repent of it and then move on with the intention of not ever repeating that sin. If we repeat the sin, then do the same thing until we get victory over it. However, we should **never** beat ourselves down and become discouraged about what God thinks about us. Remember that God loves you and He deliberately forgot about that sin!*

Free access [Chapter 10: 19-39]

*Hebrews 10:19 **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus...***

The veil was torn from top to bottom in the temple just as Jesus' body was torn. Through the suffering and shed blood of Jesus we have free access to the Throne of God. In church you may hear the phrase "Priesthood of the Believer." This simply means that we as born-again believers can come directly to God without depending on another person, like a priest to intercede for us.

We are encouraged to assemble together also so we can "exhort" or encourage one another to put our faith to greater use. Some groups use this verse to "beat up" their congregation to feel guilty if they miss Church. This is not the intent of the verse; We have the responsibility to help and encourage one another.

Some groups use these verses to say that a person can lose their salvation. Since God's word cannot lie and there are many other verses that say we cannot lose our salvation (*John 5:24, John 10:28 & 29, Rom. 10: 13*) then anyone who uses this verse to say we can lose salvation is mistaken.

We have to understand that a Christian that willfully sins will suffer as a result of those sins: both through the natural bad outcome of the sinful actions and chastisement (correction) from God.

Trail Note:

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.