

Hebrews 9:11-22 – The Blood of Christ

Jesus is not an Aaronic priest but the Aaronic priests, the tabernacle and the sacrifices provided copies, shadows and patterns of our true high priest, Jesus Christ. At the beginning of chapter 9, the vessels of the tabernacle were mentioned but there was no time to go into detail about them. The author of Hebrews wanted to stay focused on the priesthood of Christ compared to the Aaronic priests and their priestly service. Tonight's passage focuses on the superiority of Jesus' priesthood.

Read Hebrews 9:11-14.

Verse 10 talked about "the time of reformation". Based on verse 11, what is the time of reformation? The Aaronic priests served in the earthly tabernacle. Where does Jesus perform his priestly service? (9:11)

The Aaronic priests offered the blood of goats and calves. What did Jesus bring as an offering? The Aaronic priests offered sacrifices daily. The high priest brought blood into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement. How often did Jesus offer a sacrifice? What did Jesus' sacrifice secure? BDAG says of the phrase "once for all" that it means "taking place once and to the exclusion of any further occurrence, once for all, once and never again". (9:12)

What did the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of the ashes of heifers accomplish? (9:13)

What did the blood of Christ accomplish? In 4:15, God said that Jesus was tempted but without sin. Here Jesus offered himself without blemish to God. What does it mean that Jesus offered himself through the eternal Spirit? (9:14)

Read Hebrews 9:15-22.

Hebrews 8:6 said that the covenant Jesus mediates is better. In 9:15, Jesus is called the mediator of a new covenant. Chapter 8 talked about both the first covenant, the Sinai covenant, and the new covenant. What is the purpose or result of Christ's role as mediator of the new covenant? What effect did Jesus' death have on the sins committed under the Mosaic law? (9:15)

What is necessary for a will to take effect? The word “will” is the same word that is translated “covenant” in verses 15 and 20. ESV and NIV have “will”. NKJV has “testament”. NASB has “covenant”. William Lane argues that it should be translated “covenant” in all the verses mentioned. BDAG says that the word refers to a “last will and testament” in 9:16-17. Was the covenant at Sinai like a will? Is the new covenant like a will? In some covenants, like the covenant of marriage, when one dies, the covenant no longer remains in effect. (9:16-17)

The “inauguration” of the covenant at Sinai was described in Exodus 24:1-8. Whose blood was used for the inauguration of the covenant at Sinai? (9:18)

In verse 19, what did Moses do with the blood after every commandment of the law had been spoken to the people? What things appear in the account of the inauguration of the Sinai covenant in verse 19 which do not appear in the account found in Exodus 24:5-8? What was the significance of sprinkling the people with the blood? (9:19)

In verse 20, what Old Testament passage was quoted? See Exodus 24:8. How does the quote in verse 20 differ from Exodus 24:8. Some think that the replacement of “behold the blood” with “this is the blood” was influenced by the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, “this is my blood”. See Matthew 26:28 and Mark 14:24. (9:20)

According to verse 21, how was the tent of the tabernacle and its furnishings consecrated? According to Exodus 40, how was the tent of the tabernacle and its furnishings consecrated. See Leviticus 8, also. Note that the altar for sacrifices was consecrated with blood. See Exodus 29 and Leviticus 8. (9:21)

In verse 22, what Old Testament principle was stated? What Old Testament passage was this based on? See Leviticus 17:11. There are a number of Old Testament examples but Leviticus 17:11 states the principle well. Normally we think of water when we think of an agent that cleans and purifies. Blood is not a common cleaning agent, but it is what God has said is necessary for cleansing sins. What is the implication for the new covenant? “Shedding of blood” is one word in the original text and is a word that is only used once in the New Testament. ESV has “forgiveness of sins”. NASB and NIV have “forgiveness”. NKJV has “remission”. I’m not sure why the ESV added “of sins”. It is not in the original text. (9:22)