

# Hebrews 10:1-18 Sacrifices

This section contains repeated statements of previous points making the strong case that Jesus' ministry is the real fulfilment of all that went before.

This section also concludes chapters 1 to 10 with the comparisons of Jesus to:-

- The Mediator (Angels and Moses)

- The Priesthood (Aaron and Levites)

- The Tabernacle (Earthly and heavenly)

- And now the Sacrifices (animal and Messiah)



The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. v1

Shadows versus good things coming?

Why cling to shadows? People's fear of change/ unknown challenges?



For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. v1

Shadows cannot save us.

Applying the same remedy covers the wound but doesn't heal it

Does being 'made perfect' mean you are sinless?

Or is it perfect to worship ?

If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshippers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty (consciousness) for their sins. v2

If it worked first time why repeat it?

Cleansed worshippers - on the inside!



Feeling guilty?

Should you feel guilty if sins aren't forgiven,  
and feel shame if they are?

Romans 6:20-21 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, v3

Day of atonement especially - reminder that sin still reigns in their lives  
Last year's sacrifices won't cover this year's sins.

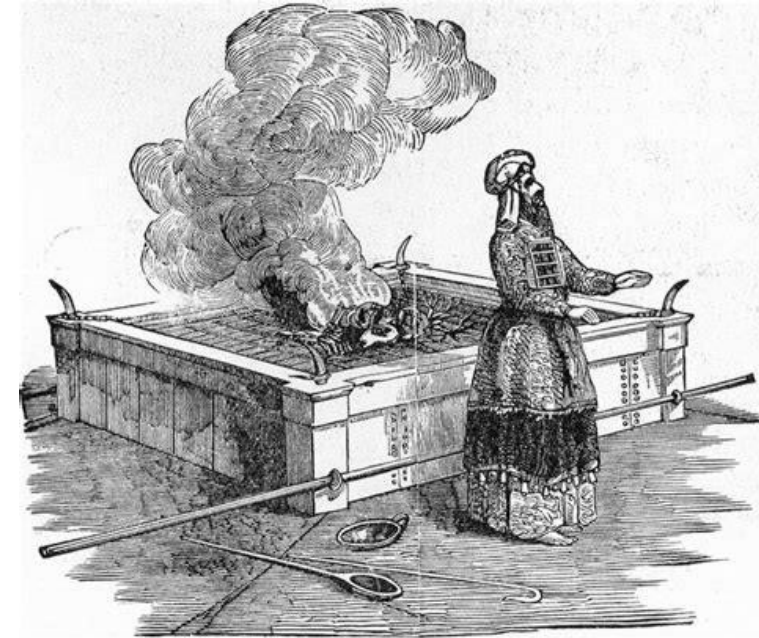


because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

v4

They are substitutes of lesser value

They were given by God as a “cover” for sins  
But to “take them away” needs the blood of  
the Lord Jesus.



Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said.. v5

The Messiah (Christ) came first to deal with the 'sin problem'  
How can a sinner be right with God in a loving relationship.  
The gospel is the answer ...

**“He said”** - (the writer is going to quote Psalm 40 as if Jesus were speaking the words ... Why? – because it was true of him in heaven and his Spirit revealed them to David.





Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said.. "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, v5

The animal sacrifices were necessary for the time but the fuller purpose was ...



1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said.. "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; v5

Christ became a human being



Quote from the Septuagint - cf. Hebrew (Psalm 40:6) -  
pierced ear (opened)  
Ready and willing to listen and obey.

with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. v6

The idea is re-stated in a different way



Hosea 6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said,  
`Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your  
will, O God.`" v7

(notice parallelism used in Hebrew poetry)

Offerings – not enough

Body – prepared

Offerings – not enough

Do your will –in the body.



Prophecy quotation – the scroll – God's plan?

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my  
own will but the will of him who sent me.

First **he** said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). v8

Who said it ? – Jesus

Not pleased?

Exodus 29:18 It is a burnt offering to the LORD.  
It is a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

The Law's requirements - essential temporary measures

Psalm 40 recognises that without repentance and faith the rituals were empty and could not please God

Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." v9

Here I am - a willing offering

Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

He sets aside the first to establish the second. v9

Jesus taking on his servant role replaces the first role of the sacrificial system

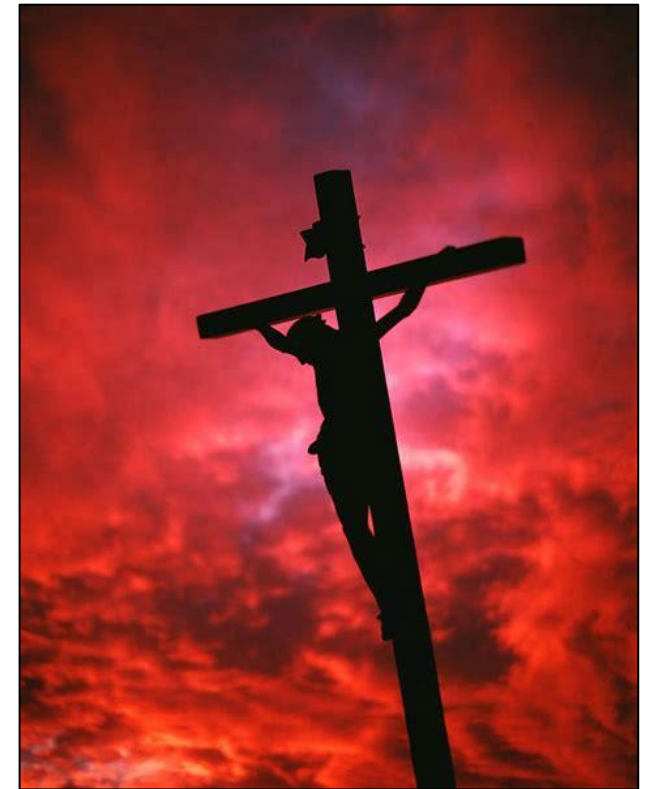


And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. v10

His Sovereign choice to go to the cross has made us holy (covered and cleansed) and open to a living relationship with our holy God

Once for all time. Unrepeatable since complete.

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.





Day after day every priest **stands** and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. v11

Contrast the repeated Levitical service (standing – never finished) which is a continual reminder that we are separated from God

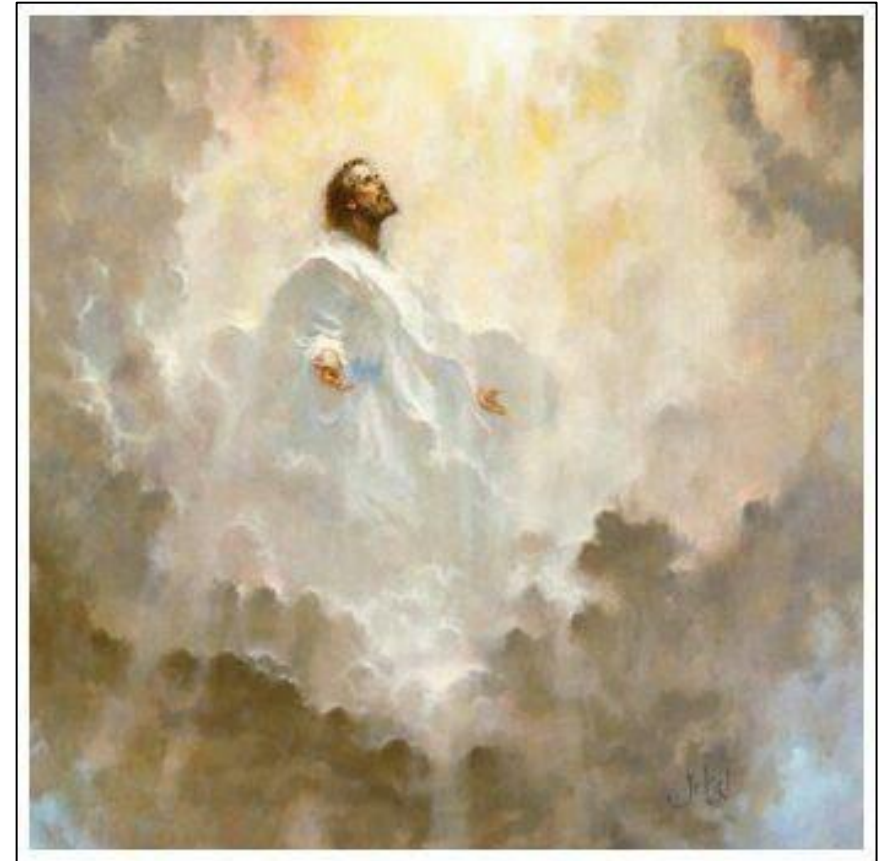


But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. v12

This priest – take a good, long look at him!

A continually effective single sacrifice  
– what an offering!

He sat down (because he rose again and lives forever) - seated – shows the finished work of sacrifice  
He now occupies the role of CEO.



Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, v13

Is he just 'waiting'

They will be defeated and made subject to him

Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,



Enemies in this world can become true disciples

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. vs13-14

The effective work of Messiah's atoning sacrifice

Made perfect forever = justification

Being made holy = sanctification

The outside being worked in!

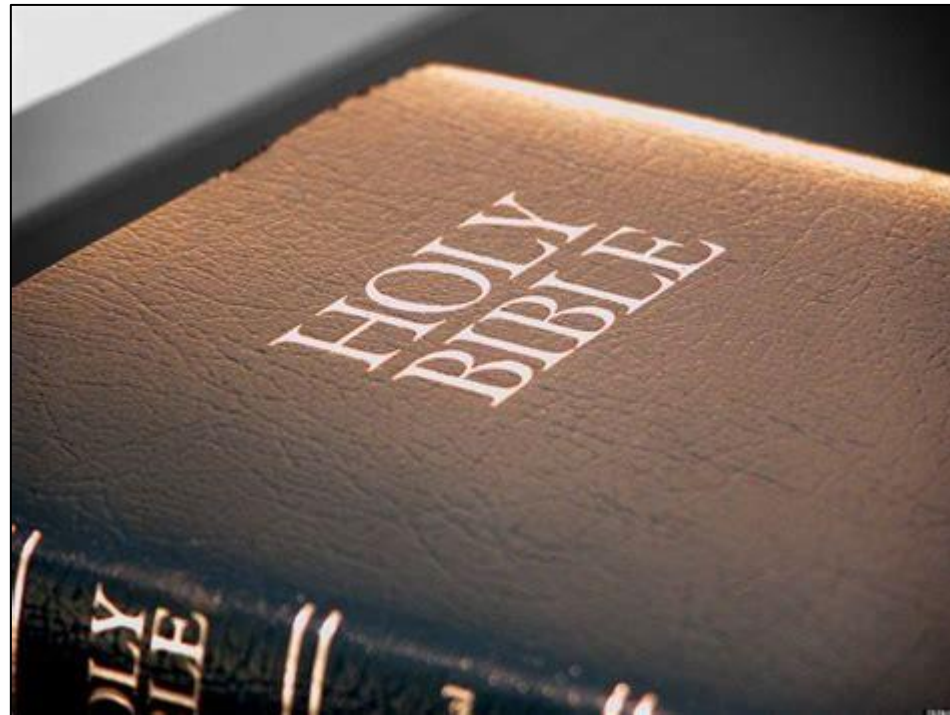
The two have to go together



The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. v15

The quotation from Jeremiah 33:33 is attributed to the Holy Spirit

This shows his high view of Bible inspiration! - God's Word



First he says.. "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." v16

This is the Holy Spirit speaking to us

A new covenant - God's commitment to have a people for himself continues!

After that time ( in the 'last' days)  
God's wonderful law - internalised

*Note again the parallel ideas:*

In heart (emotion, character)

In mind (thoughts and will)

ie. God is at work in all of me.



Then he adds.. "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." v17

What a comfort for us!  
And an amazing thing for God to do.  
Obliterated sin leaves no memory

**ALL  
GONE!**

And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.  
v18

When God chooses to forget our sins  
it means they have been forgiven!

When they have been forgiven (because  
the price has been paid), there is no  
more sacrifice available or necessary.





## The writer's proposition:

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Established through chapters 1 to 10