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By Dan Maines

## Hebrews 10

### Hebrews 10:1

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect.

† The Law was only a shadow, not the substance. The yearly sacrifices could never perfect the conscience or remove sin. Their repetition was proof of insufficiency. Christ is the

substance, the reality to which the Law pointed.

† Philo (On the Migration of Abraham 103) called the rituals shadows of heavenly realities, but Hebrews declares Christ is the form, the substance itself.

### **Hebrews 10:2-3**

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

† The repeated offerings reminded Israel of sin rather than removing it. Instead of bringing peace, they brought a yearly reminder of guilt.

† Mishnah Yoma 8.9 describes how the Day of Atonement reminded Israel of sins annually, confirming Hebrews' critique.

### **Hebrews 10:4**

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

† Animal blood could never take away sin. Christ's blood alone cleanses completely.

† Tertullian (Against Marcion 4.40) used this verse to prove the insufficiency of animal blood and the uniqueness of Christ's offering.

### **Hebrews 10:5-7**

Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "You have not desired sacrifice and offering, but You have prepared a body for Me; You have not taken pleasure in whole burnt offerings and offerings for sin. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (it is written of Me in the scroll of the book) to do Your will, O God.'"

† Quoting Psalm 40, the writer shows God never desired sacrifice apart from obedience. Christ offered His body in full obedience, accomplishing God's will perfectly.

† Justin Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho 41) argued that God always intended obedience above sacrifices, fulfilled in Christ's body.

† The prophets echoed this truth: Isaiah 1:11-17, Hosea 6:6, and Micah 6:6-8 all condemned empty ritual apart from obedience.

### **Hebrews 10:8-9**

After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and offerings for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

† Christ fulfilled and removed the first covenant, replacing it with the second. The old order was removed not by neglect but by fulfillment.

### **Hebrews 10:10**

By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

† Sanctification is not achieved by repetition but by Christ's once-for-all sacrifice.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 4.17.2) declared that Christ's single offering ended the need for any other.

### **Hebrews 10:11-12**

Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God.

† Priests stood because their work was never finished. Christ sat because His sacrifice was complete. There were no chairs in the tabernacle because the work was endless. Christ's sitting shows finality.

† Chrysostom (Homilies on Hebrews 17) highlighted this contrast: endless standing priests versus the seated Son of God.

### **Hebrews 10:13-14**

Waiting from that time onward until His enemies are made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

† His one sacrifice perfected believers forever. Psalm 110 is fulfilled in Christ, who reigns until His enemies are subdued.

### **Hebrews 10:15-17**

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, "This is the covenant which I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their hearts, and write them on their mind," He then says, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will no longer remember."

† The Spirit, quoting Jeremiah 31, declares forgiveness complete. Under the Law, sin was remembered yearly. In Christ, God remembers sin no more.

† Augustine (On the Psalms 103.12) said this is the essence of the gospel, sins are removed and remembered no more.

### **Hebrews 10:18**

Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required.

† Once forgiveness is granted, no more sacrifices are needed. To return to the temple system would be to deny Christ's blood.

### **Hebrews 10:19-20**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is,

through His flesh.

† Confidence to enter God's presence was unthinkable under the Law. Now it is given to all believers through Christ. His body is the veil torn open for us.

† Josephus (Wars 5.219) emphasized the fear and awe of the high priest entering once a year. Hebrews proclaims that all believers now enter boldly.

† Origen (Homilies on Leviticus 10) identified the veil with Christ's flesh, torn for us.

### **Hebrews 10:21-22**

And since we have a great priest over the house of God, let's approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

† The cleansing is inward, not ritual. Sprinkled hearts and washed bodies symbolize the full cleansing of conscience and soul in Christ.

### **Hebrews 10:23**

Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

† God is faithful. Holding fast is the only proper response.

† Seneca (On Providence 2.5) noted that perseverance proves the truth of hope. Hebrews shows our hope is grounded in God's faithfulness.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

† The day drawing near was the judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70. Believers were to remain steadfast and united until that day.  
† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.5) recorded that Christians obeyed these words and fled Jerusalem before its destruction.

### **Hebrews 10:26-27**

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

† This was not about occasional sin but deliberate rejection of Christ for the old covenant system. Apostasy meant trampling Christ's blood and facing judgment.

† Josephus (Wars 6.110-112) describes the fiery judgment on apostates in Jerusalem, fulfilling this warning.

### **Hebrews 10:28-29**

Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

† Rejection of Moses was serious. Rejection of Christ was far worse. To turn from His blood back to temple sacrifices was to trample Him underfoot.

† Tertullian (On Modesty 20) cited this passage to show that apostasy was deadly serious.

### **Hebrews 10:30-31**

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

† God's judgment was coming. The horrors of AD 70 confirmed this warning.

† Josephus (Wars 5.19) described the famine, fire, and slaughter in Jerusalem, vividly displaying this vengeance.

### **Hebrews 10:32-34**

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through insults and distress, and partly by becoming companions with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted with joy the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better and lasting possession.

† They had already endured persecution and loss. This was proof of their faith. They accepted loss because they knew their true inheritance was eternal.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) described Nero's persecution of Christians, which aligns with the sufferings Hebrews mentions.

### **Hebrews 10:35-36**

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

† Endurance was essential. God's promise would be fulfilled, but only for those who held fast.

### **Hebrews 10:37**

For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

† The coming was imminent. Hebrews confirms Christ's return was in their generation, fulfilled in AD 70 at the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Habakkuk 2:3-4 is applied here. Just as Habakkuk awaited

God's judgment on Babylon, the believers awaited His judgment on Israel's old covenant system.

### **Hebrews 10:38-39**

But My righteous one will live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.

† The righteous live by faith. Shrinking back led to destruction in AD 70. Enduring faith preserved their souls.

### **Application For Us Today**

† Christ's one sacrifice is sufficient. There is no need for any further offerings or rituals to add to His finished work.

† Forgiveness is final. Believers no longer live under the reminder of sin but in the freedom of full pardon.

† Endurance is the mark of true faith. Just as they endured persecution, we are called to perseverance today.

† The judgment of AD 70 fulfilled Christ's promise. We now live in the fullness of the new covenant and His eternal kingdom.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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† Psalm 40:6-8 - obedience above sacrifice

† Psalm 110:1 - Christ seated at God's right hand

† Habakkuk 2:3-4 - fulfillment in Christ's coming

† Jeremiah 31:31-34 - new covenant prophecy

† Isaiah 1:11-17, Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-8 - obedience above ritual

† John 6:35 - Christ as bread of life

- † John 8:12 - Christ as light of the world
- † Mishnah Yoma 8.9 - Day of Atonement reminder of sins
- † Josephus, Antiquities 3.6.1 - tabernacle details
- † Josephus, Wars 5.19 - famine and judgment in Jerusalem
- † Josephus, Wars 5.219 - fear of high priest entering
- † Josephus, Wars 6.110-112 - fiery judgment on apostates
- † Philo, On the Migration of Abraham 103 - Law as shadow
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- † Dead Sea Scrolls, 4QFlorilegium - ark as throne of God, last days consummation
- † Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 1 - Christ's blood as eternal redemption
- † Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 41 - obedience above sacrifice
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- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.17.2 - once-for-all offering
- † Origen, Homilies on Leviticus 10 - veil as Christ's flesh
- † Chrysostom, Homilies on Hebrews 17 - Christ seated shows finality
- † Augustine, On Psalms 103.12 - forgiveness in new covenant
- † Augustine, City of God 10.20 - once-for-all sacrifice ends all others
- † Tacitus, Annals 15.44 - Nero's persecution
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5 - Christians fled Jerusalem
- † Seneca, On Providence 2.5 - perseverance proves hope

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