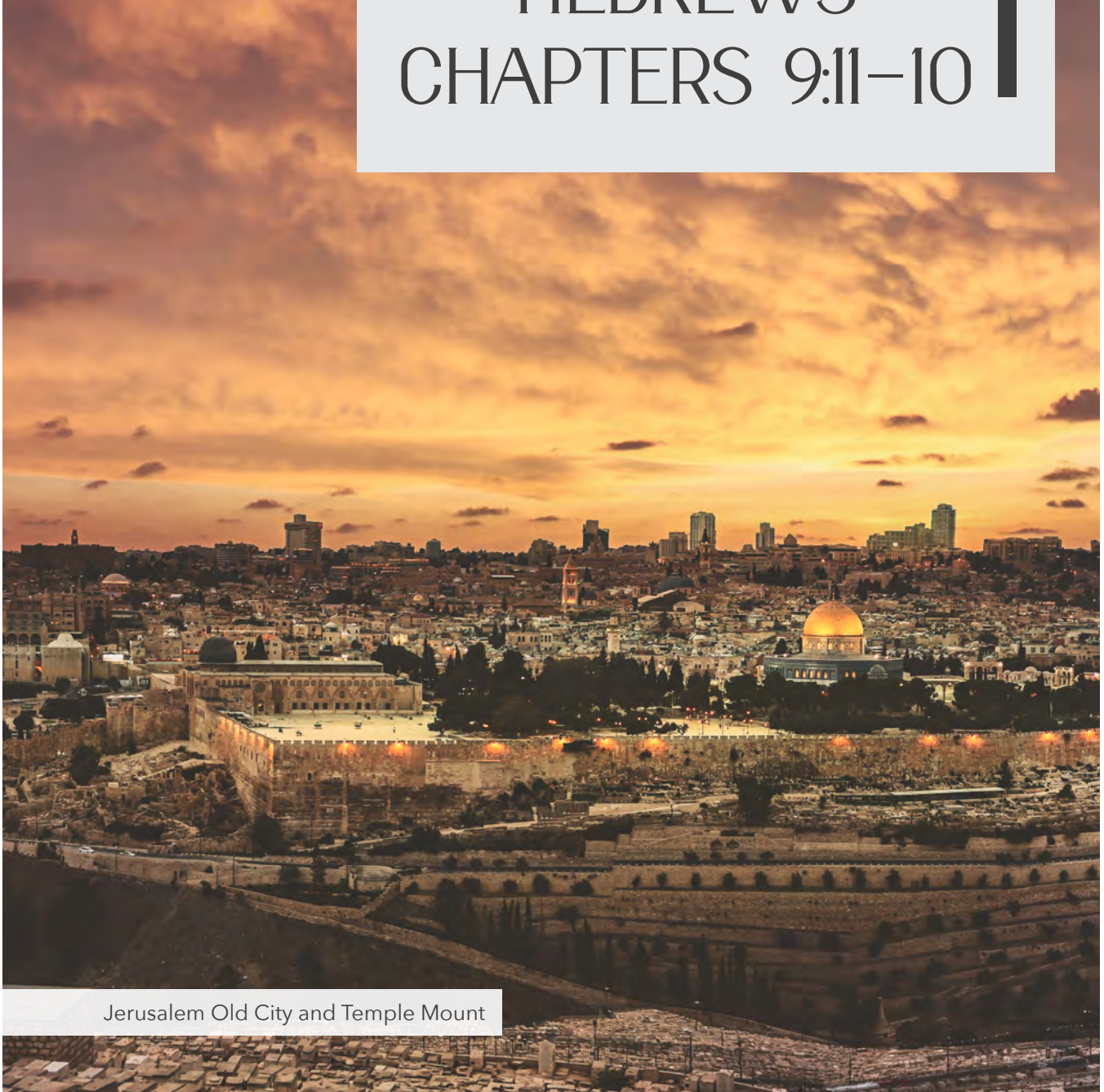


# WEEK 6

## HEBREWS

### CHAPTERS 9:11–10



Jerusalem Old City and Temple Mount

#### JESUS IS THE GREATER SACRIFICE

This week, we dive into the truth that **Jesus is our greater sacrifice for our sinful nature** and works. As we learned last week, there was an old covenant between God and man for the forgiveness of sins, but Christ ushered in a new covenant that was perfect and all-encompassing. This week, we look at how His sacrifice makes the new covenant perfect and all-encompassing.

# DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 9:11-15

## JESUS COMPLETES THE INCOMPLETE

As we learned last week, there was once a system for atonement (forgiveness or covering of sin) that required a priest to offer animal sacrifices on behalf of the sinful people. This system was incomplete (as we've discussed throughout this study), but let's recall why it was incomplete: the priest was human and sinful too, the people had to come over and over to offer these sacrifices and the sacrifices didn't clear their conscience or feelings of guilt and shame, and overall this system was just a physical earthly attempt towards healing a spiritual eternal problem (more to come on that on day three). **The old covenant system of atonement was incomplete.**

This week, though, we are studying the reminder that the author brings to the Hebrew readers in Hebrews chapters nine and ten. The author reminds us that **Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our atonement.** Jesus, whom we have already discussed, was our high priest who offered Himself as **the perfect sacrifice** that no animal could match. He **entered the true Holy Place** of the Lord, where He mediated our salvation, and He **brings true healing and freedom to our lives** from our sins. The importance of this week's study can't be overstated. It is one thing to know you are saved, but it is another thing entirely to understand the depths of how and why you are saved by believing in the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus completed the incomplete sacrificial system by becoming a real, eternal, and sufficient sacrifice for us. Let's draw near to Him this week to understand this further.

## REFLECTION

Over the next three days, we'll examine each of the works that Jesus' sacrifice completes for us, and then we will conclude the week with the author of Hebrews' words about what we are meant to do with this truth. For today, though, go back and re-read Hebrews 9:1-15—study specifically the old covenant system in Hebrews 9:1-10. Then read about the three ways that Jesus' new covenant, perfect sacrifice, ushers in a greater life for us.

Journal the three ways Jesus' sacrifice completed the incomplete old covenant and finally pray to God, thanking Him for how He met each of these three needs for our souls' atonement.

# DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 9:9-10, HEBREWS 9:11-23, LEVITICUS 4:1-20, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

## JESUS OFFERS A PERFECT SACRIFICE

*"Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven."*

- Leviticus 4:20

Leviticus 4:20 might be one of the most understated passages about the complexity of the Old Covenant system. When you read verses one through nineteen, you see how detailed and difficult the previous sacrificial system was, but keep in mind that this entire system is spelled out in more detail over Leviticus chapters one through seven and chapter 16, and all of this was just for ceremonial purposes. The system for atonement before Jesus was really difficult and not sufficient. Jesus' ushering of the new covenant is not simply about making atonement more convenient (although it does). Still, more specifically, Jesus' sacrifice shows us how completely dependent we are on Jesus and just how perfect His works and love are for us.

As we see in Hebrews 9:16-23, the previous sacrifices for sins were animals. When Moses ushered in this system of atonement (the old covenant), he did so through the shedding of animal blood. This death brought in the way that God's faithful people would find forgiveness- by continuing to sacrifice animals and shed their blood as a representative of the death and destruction that their sins brought against their relationship with God, the standard of holiness that He set before His people, and His creation.

The problem is that the animal sacrifices were literal scapegoats. They were weak fill-ins for a deeper spiritual problem that we all face. The animal sacrifices were ceremonial offerings to cleanse one outwardly who has an inward problem. Hebrews 9:9-10 addresses this clearly. Thankfully, though there is something, someone greater, who offered Himself as a sacrifice, Jesus- God Himself in the flesh, no animal, no person, could complete this incomplete sacrificial system for us, only Jesus, because of His status as God, because of His perfection, and because of His equal physical and spiritual sacrifice for mankind. He was both physically clean and spiritually pure, and yet took on death and the punishment of sin by the shedding of His Holy blood for us.

No one and nothing could have ushered in this necessary sacrifice but Jesus. **His blood and His obedience and willingness to shed it are what make Him the perfect sacrifice.** Through His blood we are free, not just ceremonially or outwardly for a time, but internally, spiritually, for all time.

## REFLECTION

Take a moment and write down the last sentence of Hebrews 9:15, "...For Christ died to set them (us) free from the penalty of the sins they (we) had committed under that first covenant." Try to re-read this passage today throughout your day. Reflect and meditate on it and its meaning/ significance. We are free because of His perfect blood and sacrifice. The old is gone, and the new is here for all who reflect and put their faith in His perfect sacrifice.

# DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 9:23-28, LEVITICUS 16, EPHESIANS 2:18, REVELATION 4:1-3

## JESUS ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE

As we see in Hebrews 9:1-10, there was once a place in the Tabernacle called the “Holy of Holies” or the Most Holy Place. It was the innermost room of the Tabernacle, separated by a veil, and only the high priest could enter it – and only once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This was a deeply sacred space, where the atoning blood of sacrifices was sprinkled on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, as a covering for the sins of the people and the priest himself (Leviticus 16).

### NOTE

See pp 40-41 for more on the Tabernacle

The Holy of Holies was designed to represent the very presence of God, functioning as an earthly shadow of the heavenly throne room – the place where God dwells in holiness, glory, and justice. Although this was a sacred and divinely instituted practice, its sacredness was not deemed sufficient. The Tabernacle and the Holy of Holies were copies, human representations, of the greater reality. It was not the actual throne room of God where one could go and have full access to God, nor could the system offer complete atonement of sins. It’s an incomplete system, but Jesus comes in to perfect it, to complete it.

As we read in Hebrews 9:24, **Jesus went into the actual throne room of God and appeared before God as our sacrifice, and mediated our atonement once and for all!** Jesus went before God as our perfect sacrifice, which ushered in His Holy Spirit into our lives, offering us eternal communion with God and a complete forgiveness of our sins and brokenness. Through the perfect sacrifice of His blood, He entered into the actual presence of God to grant us immediate access to Him for all time and eternal freedom from the guilt of our sins. The veil that once separated us from the throne room of God has been torn in two. Enter now into the eternal presence of God.

## REFLECTION

Remember that feeling of coming home as a child after playing all day or being at school. Think about coming home after a long day of work or a fun but tiring week-long vacation. It feels good to be home. What it means for us that Jesus went into the proper Holy Place for us is that we have an eternal home awaiting us, where we can rest and find peace from this weary life. It also means that we get a glimmer of this feeling of home when we open our hearts, eyes, ears, and minds to seek the very real presence of the Holy Spirit.

Today, as you end your study of Hebrews 9:23-28, reflect upon your future home with Jesus and open your heart to embrace His presence in your life.

# DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 10:1-18, PSALM 40:6-8

## JESUS BRINGS TRUE HEALING AND FREEDOM

Often, I meet with couples who are excited, eager, and feel ready to get married. Most have been together for years and are ready to move beyond dating and into the lifetime commitment of marriage. So, they come to me asking for help in preparing for that next step. I love walking with couples through this process.

But there's one common challenge: many couples are mainly thinking about the wedding day. That's understandable – the wedding is a joyful and beautiful celebration. It's the moment where vows are exchanged and a covenant is made before God. It's sacred, meaningful, and often something people have dreamed about for years. But here's the problem: the ceremony doesn't make you one. It marks the beginning, but it's the daily commitment, the ongoing work, and the humble submission to one another that form a marriage. Being technically married is one thing. Feeling married is another. But living as a married couple – that's the real goal.

The same principle applies to our relationship with God. In the Old Testament, the people participated in the ceremony of animal sacrifice. But, as the writer of Hebrews points out, that ritual didn't make them feel truly free or forgiven – in fact, it often just reminded them of their guilt (Hebrews 10:1-3). What they needed – and what we still need – is more than a ceremony. We need transformation. We need healing. We need a Savior. That's what Jesus brings. Jesus didn't offer a ritual. He offered Himself. He did the work we could never do. And through His perfect, once-for-all sacrifice, He offers us something no ceremony ever could: not just the feeling of freedom and healing, but the reality of it.

**In Jesus, we are not just symbolically cleansed – we are made whole.** This work is so finished and so complete that the author of Hebrews says in verse 18, *"And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices."* In other words, the old system died when Christ died. The ceremony is over, the real work is being done as Christ moves in our hearts, and we now move toward Him and with Him. It's no longer a feeling, a symbol, or an idea- **you are truly and eternally healed and free.**

## REFLECTION

Do you feel like your faith is real, or is it ceremonial? Is it something you do in front of others on a Sunday, but during the week, you live single, you live imprisoned to sin, guilt-ridden for your mistakes and failures? For most of us, the answer to these questions is yes, but the author of Hebrews is trying to draw us into a deeper understanding of how much our souls were paid for through Jesus' sufficient, perfect sacrifice. When we draw our eyes towards this work, our hearts desire to put on the work of living with and for Him.

Reflect today on how saved you really are. Read back on Hebrews 10:1-18 and seek the presence of the Lord today as you recall throughout your day that you are healed and free with Him.

# DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 10

## A TALE OF TWO MINDSETS

Hebrews chapter ten ends with the author declaring yet again, like in chapter six, that we can be confident and bold in our salvation. The author mentioning this truth again here is appropriate because, as we've just spent the week looking at in heavy detail, the Lord Jesus is greater than any way the Hebrew people once had of seeking forgiveness and freedom. We can have confidence in our salvation and freedom like never before in the sacrificial, priestly work of Jesus. That is why the author uses such powerful language as *"we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place..."* and *"...let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him..."* We need no longer to be timid; we are free and welcome into the presence of our Lord!

This is what our mindset should be, but the author warns that those who don't believe in this, or lack a mind and heart of confident faith, will be doing a *"terrible thing"*. Why does the author warn against this? What is this terrible thing mentioned in this passage? The simplest way to view this problematic mindset is to imagine working on something for someone you love. Imagine you built a house, helped them move in the rain or the unrelenting heat, and cared for their children all week with no help. Then, when that person came back, they completely ignored you and acted like nothing had been done. This is a great insult, but more than that, it's a tragedy to ignore a gift so great and act like it was never given.

The author is making the point that to continue to live as if Jesus had not died sacrificially for us all is to decide that you still want to be subject to the impossible standard of the Old Testament. So you will receive the lack of freedom and salvation that comes from this old standard. Just as the author reminds the Hebrews, let us not walk as people in timidity and uncertainty of our faith, freedom, and salvation. Let us walk as people who genuinely know we are bought and paid for by Christ and can now come to Him willingly and openly forever.

## REFLECTION

What is your mindset when it comes to your salvation? Are you confident? Are you bold? Are you present with the Lord? In verse fourteen of Hebrews ten, the author declares that our work now on this side of heaven is to be made holy. To do the works that the author describes in verses nineteen through thirty-nine, but we can't do this if our minds are in battle with whether we are truly saved or not.

Today, reflect on what Christ has done for you. Reflect on His good works. Reflect on how much you actually reflect upon this in your day-to-day life. Finally, ask the Lord to help you to walk in confidence and boldness towards Him, as a result of the good works that He did for us all.



# DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

## REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Hebrews Chapters 9 & 10*

This week, we examined the old standards of forgiveness of sin and redemption, which fell short until Christ came and perfectly abolished them all.

### Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

# DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.