

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Hebrews 9

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For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1-4)

I begin today with a portion of the 10th chapter to help you better understand the true significance of Hebrews chapter 9. The sacrificial system that God gave to the nation of Israel was not for salvation. This is what Chapter 10:1-4 clearly states. The rituals, the system, and the sacrifices even though they were blood sacrifices could never take away sin. Only the blood of a perfect sacrifice could take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He lived in total obedience to the Father in heaven and did so in a sin cursed, fallen world. He lived a perfect life of obedience as a man when everyone else around him had sinned, yet he did not.

This is in contrast to Adam who also had God as his Father, however, Adam was placed into a beautiful sin free world. He was placed into a pristine world where sin had never entered. But Adam gave into the temptation to place the love and acceptance of his counterpart over that of the God who had made

him. His decision plunged the entire human race into sin and the accompanying curse. When Adam sinned God promised a Savior who would be sent by the Father to redeem and save fallen humanity.

The Savior would come through the seed of Abraham whom God chose to be the father of those who would trust God's word and rely on His faithfulness. Jesus is the answer to Adam's sin. No animal would suffice. It had to be of the race that fell, but only one that was perfect in every way of being obedient to God's demands. Jesus was altogether righteous. He died as a substitute for the totally unrighteous. The Just died for the unjust, that he might bring us back to the Father.

God had to prepare the human heart by giving the Torah that we could see we could never measure up. He showed us through symbols, signs, sanctuaries, and sacrifices a picture of what and how He would do it. But the Jewish people as a whole were caught up in those earthly representations and missed the one that all those things represented. That is as a nation, not as individuals. Thousands upon thousands of Jews came to know their Messiah just in the early days of the church; millions will in the days ahead. Read Chapter 9 again and look at the elaborate system that God let them experience just so they could know that there is no atonement, no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Listen to the embedded podcast to listen to the explanation of Chapter 9.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in Heaven, thank you for sending the perfect sacrifice, Jesus, the Messiah, to die for my sins.