

Hebrews 10:5-7 “Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me; In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written of Me) to do Thy will, O God.’”
Psalm 40:6-7

Hebrews 10:13 “...until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.”
Psalm 110:1

Hebrews 10:16-17 ““This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and upon their mind I will write them,’ *He then says*, ‘and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’” Jeremiah 31:33-34

“So Great a Salvation”

Lesson 7, for Sunday April 22, 2001

“Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, ‘See,’ He says, ‘that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.’ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.”
Hebrews 8:4-6, NAS

“But when Christ appeared *as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
Hebrews 9:11-14, NAS

The Outline

E. Covenant, Sanctuary, and Sacrifice (8:1-10:18)

1. Priesthood and promise (8:1-7).
2. The old covenant superseded (8:8-13).
3. The sanctuary under the old covenant (9:1-5).
4. A temporary ritual (9:6-10).
5. Christ’s eternal redemption (9:11-14).

6. The Mediator of the new covenant (9:15-22).
7. The Perfect Sacrifice (9:23-28).
8. The old order a shadow of reality (10:1-4).
9. The new order *is* the reality (10:5-10).
10. The enthroned High Priest (10:11-18).

The Argument

The Aaronic priests minister under the old covenant instituted at Mount Sinai; Jesus is the Mediator of the new covenant - the covenant whose inauguration Jeremiah foretold. The introduction of a new covenant means that the former one is obsolete. The old covenant made provision for the removal of external pollution by means of animal sacrifices and similar rites, but these things could never remove sin; under the new covenant Jesus, by yielding up His life to God as an acceptable and efficacious sacrifice, cleanses the conscience from guilt and thus abolishes the barrier between His people and God. The Aaronic priests minister in an earthly sanctuary belonging to the old order, where access to the divine presence is barred by a curtain; Jesus exercises His high priesthood in the heavenly sanctuary, where there is no such barrier between the worshippers and God. And this heavenly sanctuary, in which direct access to God is accorded through Jesus, is that spiritual and eternal order of which the earthly sanctuary is only a temporary and inadequate copy. For the new order into which Christ brings His people is to the old Levitical order as substance is to shadow.

The Key Words

ἀρχιερεύς -- High Priest, i.e. chief, principal, and most important intermediary between God and man. Jesus Christ is our High Priest.

ἔγγυος -- translated as *guarantee*, it means under good security, thus a pledge or down payment, and is a metaphor of Christ as guaranteeing fulfillment of the new covenant, thus of Christ as a guarantor or surety.

σκηνή -- A tent, booth, or dwelling, generally a transitory, moveable lodging place for nomads, pilgrims, herdsmen. In this case it refers to the sacred tent, called the *tabernacle*, which was the portable place of

worship for the Israelites during the exodus from Egypt and later, until the construction of the first temple during the reign of Solomon.

λύτρωσις -- Translated as *redemption*, it means to “loose” and this by providing a ransom, thus releasing from slavery or captivity. It could also be translated as deliverance, liberation, or freeing.

μεσίτης -- Translated as *mediator*, it is one who works to remove disagreement, thus a go-between and a reconciler.

διαθήκη -- Translated as *covenant*, it was a legal term in the Greek and Roman world referring to the settlement of an inheritance, or to a binding contract, agreement, or treaty. In Hebrews 9:16 the sense is of a “last will and testament.” In the New Testament it is generally used, as in the Old Testament and the Septuagint, as a declaration of the will of God concerning His self-commitment, promises, and conditions by which He entered into the relationship. See Luke 1:72 and Mark 14:24.

The Quotations

Hebrews 8:5b “‘See,’ He says, ‘that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.’” Exodus 25:40

Hebrews 8:8b-12 “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and I did not care for them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts. and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, ‘know the Lord,’ for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 9:20 “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.” Exodus 24:8