

# A Better Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:1-14

**Review:** Hebrews 1 - Jesus is better than the prophets and angels. Hebrews 3-4 - Jesus is better than Moses and Joshua. Hebrews 5-6 - Jesus is better than the Old Covenant High Priest Aaron. Hebrews 7 - Jesus Priesthood began when he presented his blood in the heavenlies. Hebrews 8 - The New Covenant of Jesus Christ is superior because it is based upon better promises (Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36).

Now we come to Hebrews 9-10's discussion of the two covenants and the superiority of the New Covenant sacrifice; mediated by Jesus Christ.

**The Tabernacle's Structure Points to Christ:** Hebrews 9:2-5

**The Tabernacle's Ministry Points to Christ:** Hebrews 9:6-7

**The Holy Spirit Points to Christ** - Hebrews 9:8-10 - First, we learn in verse 8 that the Holy Spirit did not intercede for God's people in the time of the Old Covenant the way He does today for God's people in the New Covenant.

Second, verse nine reveals that in the Old Covenant the conscience of the worshipper was not cleansed. It simply covered up something that needed to be dealt with spiritually.

Third, The Old Covenant never had the power to make things right, to bring about real reformation in the heart of Israel—it was all external.

**Conscience** - The human conscience is the capacity for moral judgment. Humans have it because they are made in the image of God; God is moral, so his creatures, in spite of sin, have a conscience that manifests in moral judgment.

**The Earthly Tabernacle Points to Jesus Christ** - Hebrews 9:11

**A Better Sacrifice Points to Jesus Christ** - Hebrews 9:12

**Jesus Christ = Better Sacrifice** - Hebrews 9:13-14

**Conclusion:** Under the Old Covenant access was very limited; under the New Covenant all of that has changed and an important change is the gift of a clean conscience before God—because the atonement of the cross, a better sacrifice, is from the inside out.

There is a difference between the sacrifices made in the Old Covenant and the sacrifices made that instituted the New Covenant. The Old Covenant sacrifices were irrational beasts and domesticated animals. On the other hand the New Testament sacrifice knew exactly why He was there and He chose that path with the Father's blessing.

Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2 - The nature of the Tabernacle pointed God's people to the Holy One of Israel and the tabernacle challenged worshippers to come as humble servants; kings and peasants alike.

We might ask why is the purification of our conscience so much better than what took place in the Old Covenant. The end of verse 14 gives us the answer; it leads to truly serving the living God, out of love and loyalty, with our whole heart rather than duty and obligation.