

Hebrews 9:24–10:10

- ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
- ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—
- ²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
- ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
- ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
- ¹ 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.
- ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.
- ³ But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.
- ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.
- ⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.
- ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.
- ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’”
- ⁸ Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law),
- ⁹ then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.
- ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

What God Did **Hebrews 10:1-10**

INTRO:

The writer of Hebrews repeated for emphasis the point he made in **Hebrews 9**. The sacrifices under the old covenant could not ever take away sin. The writer repeated this so the Jewish Christian readers of this book understood how the sacrificial system pointed to coming of Christ. The Old Testament sacrifices were no longer necessary because the Lord's death bought salvation once and for all.

There is a parallel between what the writer wrote in this paragraph and what the Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 8:3**, *"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh."* In verses 1-4 we discover what the Law could not do. In verses 5-10 he showed us what God did. All of this is designed to show us clearly how the New Covenant has superseded the Old Covenant.

I. What the Law Could Not Do (v. 1-4)

II. What God Did (v. 5-10)

I. What the Law Could Not Do (v. 1-4)

"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)

A. The Law could not deliver us from sin and make us acceptable to a Holy God. We read this in **verse 1**.

"For the law . . . can never with these sacrifices make those who approach perfect."

1. I took the dependent clauses out so we can see where the verse was going. Sometimes we can get so lost in the clauses, we miss the point of the statement.

2. This is the heart of the sentence. The sacrifices and procedures the Law prescribed can never make those who wish to approach God perfect or complete in the sight of God. In our natural state, we are not holy but unholy and unacceptable to God.

3. The sacrifices in the Law never could make us complete in the eyes of God because, *"the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things."*

The tabernacle and the ceremonies prescribed by the Law are only a shadow of the redemption which was to come. They were not the substance. There are two reasons we know this is true. **(1)** First, the sacrifices demanded by the Law could not do away with our sin because they were repeated. Listen to the logic in our text.

"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."

(2) Second, these sacrifices could not do away with sin because:

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

The sacrifice of innocent animals could not satisfy the punishment God's righteousness required for sin.

B. If the Law and its sacrifices could not **(1)** take away our sin and **(2)** could not make us acceptable to approach the Holy God, what can we then do? Nothing. While we can do nothing to save ourselves, God did what needed to be done for our salvation.

II. What God Did (v. 5-10)

“Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ Previously saying, ‘Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them’ (which are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
(Hebrews 10:5–10)

A. The writer told us what God did by quoting **Psalm 40** and crediting these words to the Lord Jesus Himself. **Verse 5** says:

“Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.’”

1. The writer said the Lord Jesus Christ uttered these words upon His coming into the world. Some have a problem with this because when Jesus came into the world He was born as a baby. So, they say, “When did Jesus say this?”

2. John Owen wrote that it is not important to seek to find a date and time when these words actually came out of our Lord's mouth. It is enough to recognize that the Holy Spirit recorded the Lord's design and resolution in coming into this world.

B. The quotation from **Psalm 40** in the Hebrew reads: (v. 6)

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened.”

However, the writer quoted it as:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.”

What happened here? The reason for the difference is that the writer is quoting from the Septuagint (LXX) translation. For us to be saved, for our sins to be put away, Jesus had to have a body to sacrifice in our place.

C. Having explored the technical issues, let us take a moment to bask in the blessing of what we see here. Here is our Lord's incomprehensible love for us and His determination to do His Father's will.

1. When Adam fell into sin, God the Father had a plan. His plan included the condescension and incarnation of God, the Son. He became sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He was rejected, abused, and crucified, not by chance, but by God's determinate plan. The Lord Jesus did this for you and me, because He loved us.

2. The hymn writer wrote: “O the love that drew salvation’s plan/ O the grace that brought it down to man/ O the mighty gulf that God did span/ At Calvary” We must never forget what Christ did.

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

D. Not only do we see the love of our Savior here, we see His obedience to the Father’s plan. We read in **verse 7**

“Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’”

E. How do we respond to our Lord’s great love for us? Do you remember the chorus we used to teach our children? *“After all He’s done for me. / After all He’s done for me, / how can I do less / than give Him my best / and live for Him completely? / Aafter all He’s done for me.”*

F. This is why Jesus had to be born at Bethlehem. All the blessings we enjoy are because He came and became a man. He dwelt among us and then died on that cross that we might have our sins forgiven. We deserve none of this and that is why God called it grace.

Hymn #208 *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*