

In this week's passage, the writer of Hebrews concludes his discussion of the inability of the old covenant's sacrificial system to solve the problem of sin and a guilty conscience. He drives home his point by contrasting it with the new covenant remedy—Christ's once-for-all sacrifice for sin.

➤ Read Hebrews 10:1–18.


1. Earlier in his letter to the Hebrews, the writer referred to the earthly sanctuary in the tabernacle as "...a shadow of what is in heaven" (8:5). In this week's passage, what else does he refer to as a shadow? (v. 1a)

2. Why is the law merely "a shadow of the good things that are coming" and "not the realities themselves" (v. 1a)? (Consider Heb. 9:9–10 and Col. 2:16–17.)

3. Under the law, sacrifices for sins were required "day after day" (v. 11), and on the Day of Atonement "endlessly year after year" (v. 1b).^a
 - a. What does this "endless" repetition—the same sacrifices over and over again—tell you about their effectiveness in dealing with the problem of sin? (vv. 1b–2, 4)

 - b. What did these sacrifices do instead? (v. 3; Rom. 3:20)

"A pardon that has to be bestowed repeatedly... cannot convey the same peace of conscience as a pardon bestowed once for all. And there is a manifest contrast, to our author's mind, between the old order in which 'there is a remembrance made of sins year by year' and the new covenant which embodies God's promise to His people: 'their sins will I remember no more' (Ch. 8:12)."¹

^a * To learn the details of these rituals, and to gain an understanding of how seriously sin was dealt with, read Leviticus 4:1--7:10 (daily offerings), and Leviticus 16 (annual Day of Atonement).

4. The writer states that “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (v. 4). If it could, the psalmist would not have cried, “My sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see...., and my heart fails within me” (Ps. 40:12) and “My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear” (Ps. 38:4).

What are some of the shadows in the law that pointed to the “good things” to come? Fill in the chart below.

Shadow	Good Things to Come
Ex. 12:1-5	1 Pet. 1:19
Ex. 12:12-13	Rom. 5:8-9
Ex. 12:21 Lev. 1:3-9	1 Cor. 5:7 Eph. 5:2

5. What is the evidence that “the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ” (v. 10) is the only acceptable, effective, and complete sacrifice for sin, and was God’s plan for salvation all along? (vv. 5-7; Lk. 24:44-47; Rom. 3:19-30)
6. Why was Christ’s offering of himself effective? (vv. 6-7, 9; Lk. 22:42b; Phil. 2:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:23-28)

How often does this sacrifice have to be repeated? (v. 10)

7. “The great difference[s] between what Christ did and what the priests of the Old Testament did is summed up briefly in verses 11 and 12.”² List below the differences you find.

Old Testament Priests	Jesus, the Great High Priest

8. What does Jesus’ seated position at God’s right hand indicate? (Consider vv. 12–13; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 3:21.) (For the significance of “right hand,” look back at the box on page 1 of Lesson 11.)
9. What are some of the effects of Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice? (vv. 10, 14; Rom. 8:1–2; Col. 1:21–22)
10. In verses 15–16, the writer quotes the prophet Jeremiah.
- What promise is ours under the new covenant?
 - What does this mean for you as a believer? (Consider Mt. 22:37; Lk. 9:23; Jn. 15:4-5, 9–14; Rom. 7:4–6.)

11. What final remarkable point does the writer make concerning the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice?
(vv. 17–18)

Pray and thank God that through the one sacrifice of Christ the Son your sins are forgiven and forgotten, lifting your burden of guilt, and freeing you to live completely and wholly for him.

*📖 For further study

¹ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews: The English Text with Introduction, Exposition and Notes*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. F. F. Bruce (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1964), 228–229.

² John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/perfected-for-all-time-by-a-single-offering>