

August 15, 2021



The Uniqueness of Jesus Hebrews 10

The Holy Spirit's argument concerning the superiority and uniqueness of Jesus has its crescendo in chapter 10. The author notes that the Law of Moses was a shadow (10.1) and thus not God's end-goal. The logical consequence, then, is that such a law, in and of itself, could not secure forgiveness for its adherents. Or, stated another way, "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin" (10.4). If the Law of Moses is powerless today to forgive sin, then how can we be forgiven?

The Law of Moses, as a shadow, indicated the presence of something fuller, realer, more robust. In chapters 8 and 9, that fuller thing is the new covenant. In chapter 10, we learn that new covenant was established and ratified in Jesus. A body was prepared for Jesus (10.5) through which He might accomplish the Father's will (10.7). What was the will of the Father? To take away the first covenant, so that the new covenant might be established (10.9). And how would that new covenant be brought into effect? By

the "offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (10.10).

The priests of the Mosaic dispensation offered sacrifices and served daily, but were never able to take away sin. In contrast, Jesus offered the sacrifice of Himself and "sat down" (10.12). That Jesus, our High Priest, sat down (in distinction to the priests who "[stood] daily ministering") indicates the superiority of His work — it accomplished just what we need and just what God intended. And while the work of the priests under the old covenant was strictly for the nation of Israel, Jesus' work is sufficient "for all time" (10.14).

Because of our unique Savior and His perfect sacrifice, we can be forgiven (10.17-18) and live in confidence (19). Confidence, not that we save ourselves, but that the work of Jesus is sufficient for our needs. And rather than some burdensome task, we find our place in that divine work of Jesus by means of faith (22). A faith which endures (23), encourages (24), assembles (25), lives righteously (26), works practically (34), and is eventually rewarded (39). -TS

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