

October 10, 2021



The Uniqueness of Jesus Hebrews 13

As the Holy Spirit places a capstone on the book of Hebrews, the spotlight remains on Jesus. Once again, we are called to live holy lives because of the great promises which are ours through Christ. Consider how Jesus is portrayed as unique in this final chapter.

First, we are assured that Jesus is unchanging (Hebrews 13.8). A covenant had come and gone, a new one arising in its place. However, we are assured that such was always God's idea — He was always working out His plan to save man through Jesus. That Jesus is the same "yesterday and today and forever" means we can have absolute confidence in the intercession (7.25) and salvation (5.9) He offers. He does not change. His new covenant does not change. There will be no new sacrifice for sin (9.28); His sacrifice is efficacious once and for all (10.10).

Next, the Holy Spirit would use Jesus' suffering outside of Jerusalem as a form of encouragement for us (13.12-14). Jesus suffering "outside

the gate" is a reference the original audience would have immediately grasped. On the Day of Atonement, both animals offered as sin offerings had their bodies burned outside the camp (Leviticus 16.27). Jesus, as the true image of those shadows, likewise suffered outside the camp, His blood being offered in the true holy place, Heaven (Heb. 9.24ff). As He suffered outside the camp, the Spirit encourages us to go to Him, "outside the camp" (13.13). To the original audience, the argument is here finalized — leave behind Judaism and fully embrace Jesus. To us today, it is a reminder to leave behind anything that would keep us from fully following our Savior.

Finally, Jesus is the risen Shepherd, by means of "the blood of the eternal covenant" (13.20). That Jesus was raised from the dead and continues to serve as a Shepherd to His people sets Him apart from any other person. Who else can claim to be the risen leader of his people? And, beyond that, the risen leader who died to save his people. Indeed, Jesus did just that, bringing in the new covenant of grace by means of His death (10.19ff). -TS

Please feel free to contact us — we'd love to hear from you!
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