

The Superior Covenant

The Covenants Contrasted & The Second Covenant's Superior Sacrifice (Heb. 9:1 – 10:18)

Introduction

In our previous study, the author stated the first covenant was not "faultless," it was "obsolete and growing old," and it was "ready to vanish away" (8:7, 13). Such assertions provided the perfect "springboard" to do precisely what has only been implied up to this point: a detailed contrast of the two covenants. Such a contrast can be found in Heb. 9. Having accomplished that, the author then presents another fundamental truth that elevates the second covenant over the first covenant: the element of sacrifice (Heb. 10:1-18). Blood has always been *the most important* ingredient in the relationship between God and His people (cp. Heb. 9:22). If the sacrifice of Christ can be shown to be superior to the animal sacrifices of the Mosaic covenant, that will again go a long way towards convincing this epistle's readers of the superiority of the gospel of Christ over the law of Moses.

The Covenants Contrasted (Heb. 9:1-28)

1. What does the author describe in 9:1-5? What were the "regulations" for what he describes?
2. What do you suppose is the meaning of, "...but of these things we cannot now speak in detail" in 9:5b?
3. How does the author's comments in 9:6-10 correlate to what he described in vv. 1-5?
4. What point is being made in 9:8? What "symbolism" is mentioned in 9:9-10 and how does it fit into this discussion comparing the 2 covenants?

The Superior Christ & His Covenant

Lesson 6

5. Thought question: why would the regulations of the first covenant not “perfect” the worshiper? (9:9b)
[Note: pay special attention to the phrasing used in 9:9-10]

6. Heb. 9:11-17 emphasizes Christ's high-priestly ministry, contrasting it to the Aaronic priests and their work. In the blanks below, list the “Four Great Provisions” of Jesus' blood as they relate to the new covenant. Be able to supply other passages to support your answers.

Provision # 1 (vv. 11-12) _____

Provision # 2 (vv. 13-14) _____

Provision # 3 (v. 15) _____

Provision # 4 (vv. 16-17) _____

7. In the spaces provided below, fill in the right-hand column showing the contrast to the element of the Mosaic covenant listed in the left-hand column.

<u>Moses' Old Covenant</u>	<u>Jesus' New Covenant</u>
✓ Physical tabernacle	_____ (9:11)
✓ Animal blood	_____ (9:12)
✓ Annual redemption	_____ (9:12)
✓ Cleansing of the flesh	_____ (9:14)

8. What metaphor is used in 9:15-17? Why is this appropriate to use in a discussion on covenants?
Thought question: in such a discussion, how must we view the gospel of Christ, and what does modern-day denominational religion do to the Lord's last will & testament? (cp. Gal. 3:15)

The Superior Christ & His Covenant

Lesson 6

9. Based on **9:18**, how important is blood? How does the author illustrate its importance? (**9:19-22**)
With respect to such a "cleansing," how is the second covenant superior? (**9:23-26**) Again, how does the author show Christ to be superior to the Aaronic priests?
10. What other illustration does the author use to emphasize the one-time sacrifice of Christ? (**9:27**) If Christ's "first appearance" was to be our Sacrifice, what purpose will His "second appearance" serve? (**9:28**)

The 2nd Covenant's Superior Sacrifice (*Heb. 10:1-18*)

11. How is the first covenant described in **10:1a**? (**cp. Col. 2:17**) What 1 great "limitation" constrained the first covenant? (**10:1b-4; cp. 8:12**) [*Note: before answering, read Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35 and be able to harmonize your answer with these O.T. passages.*]
12. Given the "constraint" re: animal sacrifice, what had to happen? (**10:5a; cp. 2:14-17**) What does the author present in **10:5-7**? From where does he quote?
13. *Thought question*: in what sense would God not desire nor take pleasure in sacrifices and burnt offerings for sin?

