

THE OLD COVENANT WAS CONDITIONED ON OBEDIENCE

Exodus 19:3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to tell the house of Jacob and explain to the sons of Israel: 4 'You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine. 6 And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."

7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, "We will do everything that the LORD has spoken." So Moses brought their words back to the LORD. Exodus 19:3-8

Hebrews 8:6 Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second. 8 But God found fault with the people...

Hebrews 8:13 By speaking of a new covenant, He has made the first one obsolete...

Heb.9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

Heb.9:9 It (the Old Covenant) is an illustration, because the gifts and sacrifices being offered were unable to cleanse the conscience..

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands and is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:11-12

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that their bodies are clean (ceremonial cleansing), 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God! 15 Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Those who are called are those who cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring them to saving faith in Jesus.

The ceremonial cleansing was reminding Israel of the holiness and purity of God. And it was a reminder of Israel's sinful condition and their need for a Savior.

Hebrews 9:22 says that without the shedding of blood there is no release from the Old Covenant and no New Covenant that leads us into a right relationship with God.

Hebrews 9:19 The inauguration of the old covenant was with water and blood sprinkled on the book of the covenant and on all the people. This shedding of blood introduced Israel to the covenant of law which would remind them of their sin and encourage them to exercise faith and believe God for their cleansing and eternal life.

Hebrews 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

Hebrews 10:11 The priests offered the sacrifices which could never take away sin.

Hebrews 9:20 The blood confirmed the covenant God has made with Israel.

Hebrews 9:12 Jesus took His own blood into the Most Holy Place and with it He secured our salvation forever and instituted the New Covenant.

Hebrews 9:28 Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sin of many people.

The many people are all those who cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring them to saving faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:15 Christ mediates the new covenant between God and people, so that all who are invited can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. Christ died to set people free from the penalty of sin. All who believe in Jesus alone for sin removal and glorification receive eternal life and new birth in Christ. (Those who are "in Christ" are invited to receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them.)

Hebrews 9:24 and 10:4 Under the Law of Moses (the Old Covenant) there is no release from the power of sin even when blood is shed. Because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Men of faith in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament must trust in God to take away our sins. The shed blood of Jesus secures our opportunity to trust God to take away our sins, but it is the life of Christ lived in us which takes away our sin and leads us into righteous living. Christ's physical sinless blood shed at Calvary gives all men the opportunity to be saved from sin, but it is His resurrected life which saves us. Romans 5:10

Jesus is the Passover Lamb. Just as in Egypt the passover lamb preserved life. So Christ's sacrificial death rescues us from spiritual death. The blood sacrifices of bulls and goats could never take away sin, so those blood sacrifices of the Old Covenant do not represent the shed blood of Christ. The Old Covenant of the Law was confirmed by sprinkling blood upon everything in the tabernacle including people. Without the shed blood of Christ there is no (aphesis) release of the old Covenant and no new Covenant (Hebrews 9:22). The new Covenant was commissioned in Heaven by the blood of Christ. Jesus died to do away with sin by sacrifice of Himself. Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people, and He will come a second time to bring salvation to those waiting for Him. Hebrews 8:7-13; 9:11-28

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood there is no remission (aphesis: release of the Old Covenant). Hebrews 9:22

Summary:

Hebrews 8 The Old Covenant was faulty because Israel could not keep it.

God made the Old Covenant obsolete.

Hebrews 9 The Old Covenant had regulations and an earth tabernacle.

The Old Covenant was unable to cleanse the conscience.

To serve God you need a cleansed conscience, a renewed mind.

The New Covenant was made by Christ taking His own blood and entering the heavenly tabernacle. His blood secured eternal redemption for both new born believers and all creation.

His blood of the New Covenant purifies our conscience from works of death so that we can serve God. Romans 12:1,2

Jesus died to rescue us from sin. God condemned sin to extermination at the cross of Jesus. Romans 8:3

The Old Covenant blood sacrifices do not represent the sacrificial blood of Jesus. That is why Hebrews tells us that Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchizedek and not of Levi. Jesus' sacrificial blood offering was illustrated by the passover lamb sacrificed in Egypt.

The Old Covenant was conditioned on obedience of Israel to God's commands and only pointed man to our need of rescue from our sins.

The New Covenant is conditioned on our cooperation with the Spirit and allowing Him to bring us to saving faith in Jesus. The New Covenant brings us new birth, a new creation, renewal of the mind, God's commands written on the heart, the indwelling Spirit, empowerment from the Spirit to help us escape sin's bondage, eternal life, sonship with the Father, eternal inheritance, and promise of glorification to come.

Sacrificial blood: lamb

lamb in Egypt

Passover lamb

Rescued from physical death

Sacrificial blood: goats

Goats at Tabernacle

Old Covenant: Earthly Example

Faulty: showing our weakness

Israel: National

Condition: obedience

Results: a Blessed Nation

Sacrificial blood: Jesus

Jesus at the Cross

New Covenant: Heavenly

Rescues from spiritual death

World: For God so loved

Condition: Faith in Jesus

Result: relationship with God

BLOOD

lamb/Egypt

Passover lamb

Rescued from physical death

Blood initiated the release

BLOOD

goat/Tabernacle

Old Covenant: Earthly Example

Faulty: showing our weakness

Blood initiated the Covenant

To Israel: National

Condition: obedience

Results: a Blessed Nation

BLOOD

Jesus/Cross

New Covenant: Heavenly

Rescues from spiritual death

Blood initiated the Covenant

To World: For God so loved

Condition: Faith in Jesus

Result: relationship with God