

16 – THE NEW PRIESTHOOD (HEBREWS 10:1-18)

I. The Failure of the Levitical Sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-4)

A. It Does Not Perfect (Hebrews 10:1)

- The Law was merely a foreshadowing of what was to come, not the ultimate reality.
- The continuous yearly sacrifices could not achieve perfection for those who approached.

B. The Sacrifices would have Stopped (Hebrews 10:2)

- If sacrifices were sufficient to achieve perfection, there would be no need for additional sacrifices.
- Purified worshippers would feel no guilt about their sins.

C. The Reminder of the Sacrifices (Hebrews 10:3)

- The annual sacrifices reminded worshippers of their sins.

D. The Failure of the Sacrifices (Hebrews 10:4)

- The sacrifice of goats and bulls could not remove a worshipper's sins.

II. The New Order (Hebrews 10:5-10)

A. The Coming of Christ (Hebrews 10:5a)

- The writer asserts that Christ made a proclamation upon entering the world.

B. The Prophecy (Hebrews 10:5b-7)

- The writer cites Psalm 40:6-8 from the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew text.

1. God's Desire (Hebrews 10:5b)

- The psalmist states that God does not desire the sacrifice and offering of animals.
- The psalmist states that God has prepared a body for Christ in the incarnation.

2. The Sacrifice of Animals (Hebrews 10:6)

- God takes no pleasure in the burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin.

3. The purpose of Christ (Hebrews 10:7)

Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

- The Law spoke of the Christ, who proclaims that he has come to do God's will.

C. The Proclamation Explained (Hebrews 10:8-9)

1. The Nature of the Sacrifices (Hebrews 10:8)

- He notes that sacrifices that God does not desire are those made in accordance with the Law.

2. The Nature of God's Will (Hebrews 10:9)

- It was God's intention to abolish the first covenant in order to establish the second.

D. Our Sanctification (Hebrews 10:10)

- It is according to God's will that believers are sanctified by the sacrifice of Christ.

III. A Better Priest (Hebrews 10:11-18)

A. The Futility of Old Priesthood (Hebrews 10:11)

- The Levitical priests continually offered sacrifices that could never take away sin.

B. The New Priest (Hebrews 10:12-18)

1. His Offering (Hebrews 10:12a)

- Christ offered one sacrifice for sins for all time.

2. His Glorification (Hebrews 10:12b-13)

- He assumed a position of authority with God until his enemies are defeated.

3. Perfecting Believers (Hebrews 10:14)

- By his one offering, he perfected believers forever.

4. The Witness of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:15-17)

- The writer points out that the Holy Spirit testifies through the Old Testament to us.
- Believers will have the opportunity to know God, who will no longer remember their sins.

5. No Further Sacrifices (Hebrews 10:18)

- Because Christ has forgiven sins, there is no need for further sacrifices.