

DISCUSSION QUERIES

Hebrews 10:1-18

READ 10:1-2

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?

Discuss

What were the good things to come?

- The Messiah
- Gentile believers
- The New Covenant
- The Holy Spirit pour out
- Free access to God

The term translated “true form” (*eikôn*) was used of idols. Why is this important in Hebrews 10?

- It underscores real existence over mere imagery.
- In verse 5, there is an allusion to messiah as the LORD’S idol.

READ 10:3-4

³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Discuss

What was the purpose of First Covenant sacrifices?

- Ritual access to God
- A reminder that humans are contaminated
- Teach that God requires a qualified mediator

What could First Covenant sacrifices not accomplish?

- Take away sins
- Atonement for volitional sins
- Secure an eternal inheritance

READ 10:5-7 (=Psalm 40:6-8)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

Discuss

How does this translation of Psalm 40 differ from that in your the Book of Psalms? Why is this?

- Hollowed out ears become a prepared body

When did Jesus ever recite this Psalm?

- Jesus did not recite this psalm in the Gospels; he enacted it.

READ 10:8-10

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Discuss

In what way did Psalm 40 foretell the eventual passing of the Old Covenant the coming of the New?

- It denies that God was pleased with ritual sacrifices
- It announces that someone would come do the will of God
- As predicted elsewhere in Scripture.

What does it mean that we have been sanctified?

- Having done away with the sin problem, God now views us believers as holy.
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READ 10:11-14

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Discuss

Who are the enemies of Jesus that must be subdued?

- The fallen sons of the gods who rule over the nations.

What does it mean that we are being sanctified?

- Although perfected in our faith, we spend our life learning to obey Jesus' commandments.

READ 10:15-18

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Discuss

What can we offer to God to secure forgiveness of our sins?

- “Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”