

A Superior Sacrifice

Hebrews 10: 10-14

The opening verses of this chapter consider the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, practiced for centuries. In them we find they pointed to a better sacrifice to come. The sacrifices of old were never meant to fully atone for sin. They were insufficient to redeem man from his sinful condition. It was impossible for the blood of animals to provide redemption; they could never meet the righteous demands of God. This would require a perfect sacrifice, one that was holy and acceptable in the eyes of God.

There was only one solution – God Himself must become that sacrifice. In every way the previous sacrifices were lacking, Jesus was superior. He was the fulfillment of their prophecy. I'm glad for the superior sacrifice that Jesus made for all of humanity. He alone provided what God demanded, and by becoming that superior sacrifice, we now have the opportunity and assurance of salvation. So let's take a few moments to examine the [details](#) of the text as we consider: [A Superior Sacrifice](#). We discover Jesus was:

I. A Promised Sacrifice (10) – [By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all](#). We must never lose sight of the fact that the death of Jesus on the cross was the will of God. This was the eternal plan from the beginning, [Vv.7; 9a](#). There was no compromise on the part of God; this wasn't a plan that was decided upon because of the insufficiency of the former sacrifices. God created man with the promise of a coming Redeemer, the Messiah generations longed to see.

- The promise of Christ began in the Garden of Eden immediately following the fall of man. [Gen.3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel](#). Man had fallen in sin, separated from God, but there was a promise of redemption. Prophecy after prophecy revealed the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah prophesied some 700 years prior to His birth that He would come as God promised. [Isaiah 7:14 – Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel](#). This promise was fulfilled. [Mat.1:21 – And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins](#). When the fullness of time had come Jesus was born of a virgin in Bethlehem of Judea, just as God had promised.

II. A Personal Sacrifice (10) – [By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all](#). The superior sacrifice Jesus made was by the offering of His own body. Christ willingly presented His body a sacrifice for the sins of men. I fear many have lost sight of the magnitude of the sacrifice that was made. Jesus was well aware that the blood of animals

could never provide redemption. He came to earth as God in the flesh to give His body upon the cross. Jesus came with purpose – to die for our sin!

- When I begin to consider the love God has for me, it is overwhelming. The Father sent the only begotten Son to give Himself for me! One who is God, having the very nature of God, became our sacrifice. [Phil.2:6-8 – Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: \[7\] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: \[8\] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.](#) Jesus, the second Person of the godhead, humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death for sinful men.

- Allow me to remind you that this was no easy task. This was not a swift and painless death. Jesus suffered as no man ever has. The death of the cross was a very brutal and agonizing death. As the crucified were nailed to the cross their muscles went into painful spasms, the lungs filled with carbon dioxide as the victim was unable to exhale. As the suffering intensified, he would endure searing pain from pushing himself up to exhale and draw a fresh breath. The cross was a punishment reserved for the vilest of criminals, a place of torment with no compassion from those who placed them there.

- That alone is bad enough, but Jesus endured a particularly agonizing death. The cross itself would've been torture enough, but Jesus was savagely beaten prior to the crucifixion. He was crowned with a crown of thorns, mocked, and scourged with a cat of nine tails until He was no longer recognizable. [Isaiah 52:14 – As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.](#) I know we don't like to think about the horrors of the cross, but I wanted us to be reminded of what Jesus endured in His body for us. He made a personal sacrifice for us!

III. A Provisional Sacrifice (10) – [By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.](#) By the sufferings and sacrifice of Christ, we are sanctified unto the Lord. We have been made righteous through the shedding of His blood. The righteousness of Christ has been placed upon those who have trusted Him. My account no longer shows a debt of sin, but it has been paid in full by the blood of the Lamb! As God looks upon the redeemed, He sees them as He sees His Son, sanctified in righteousness.

- These bodies of flesh are prone to sin and failure. In ourselves we could never achieve the righteousness God demands, but those who are washed in the cleansing blood are accounted righteous before God. Those who were once far off and condemned have been reconciled unto the Father. It is through the provision of Christ that we can access all that heaven affords.

- The lost man has no means of coming before the throne of God. He lacks help and guidance in the struggles of life. He doesn't enjoy the peace the indwelling Spirit provides. He has no hope of life beyond the grave.
- The provision of Jesus' sacrifice is beyond our ability to comprehend. I can't explain all I received when the Lord saved me, but I know that it was provided through the superior sacrifice of Jesus. We have the glorious privilege of coming before the throne of grace. We are not limited to remaining outside the veil. All that we have and all that we are, we owe to Jesus!

IV. A Permanent Sacrifice (11-12) – *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ^[12] But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.* The sacrifices of old had to be made annually. The Day of Atonement was repeated year after year. There was no way it could be avoided. The sacrifice atoned for sin, but man would sin again and stand in need of another sacrifice. Jesus *offered one sacrifice for sins for ever*. His sacrifice was worthy; it was sufficient; it fully satisfied the righteous demands of God. As Jesus died on the cross, full and final atonement was achieved.

- There could never be another sacrifice that would achieve what Jesus did for us. As He carried His own precious blood and placed it upon the Mercy Seat, sin was atoned. Never again will blood need to be shed for the sins of men. Jesus accomplished what countless sacrifices before Him never could. He will never again suffer the reproach and afflictions of man; He will never need to offer His body a sacrifice again. *1 John 2:2 – And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
- That precious blood was shed some 2,000 years ago and yet it has the power to save. It brought redemption to those early believers. It brought redemption for those of our generation, and it will continue to bring redemption for all who will come to Him! He fully accomplished the Father's will on Calvary's hill. After His substitutionary death, Jesus rose from the grave and ascended back to glory where He is seated at the Father's right hand.

V. A Providential Sacrifice (13) – *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.* The sacrifice of Jesus didn't go unnoticed in heaven. The Father was fully aware of the sacrifice Jesus made. He is right now King of kings and Lord of lords. He will one day return in power and glory to defeat His enemies and Satan. Jesus is seated as the preeminent One.

- The sacrifice Jesus made must be recognized. Many deny the Lord and His sacrifice on Calvary, but that doesn't excuse them from proclaiming Him Lord. He shed His blood for all men

and all men will give account of what they have done with His sacrifice. You have either been cleansed by the blood or stand condemned through rejecting it. All men will bow and honor Christ as Lord. [Phil.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:](#) ^[10] [That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;](#) ^[11] [And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.](#)

Conclusion: I want to close by saying it is a **Perfect** sacrifice: [V.14 – For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.](#) Jesus provided for the redemption of men through His sacrifice. He is the only way to obtain forgiveness and eternal life. [Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.](#) Jesus died that we might live. Have you repented of sin and believed upon Him for salvation? Have you been cleansed by His precious blood? Jesus offered a superior sacrifice to which none can compare. You must come through His blood!

If you are saved by the grace of our Lord, I urge you to offer praise and worship unto Him. He is worthy of our praise. I trust this will challenge us to share what we have received with others, pointing them to the superior sacrifice of Christ for salvation.