

The Necessity of Christ's Death?

Hebrews 9:16-28

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction

- Today marks the beginning of the Christian's "Holy week"
 - Begins with Palm Sunday, the day we commemorate Jesus offering Himself as the Messiah
 - Matthew 21:9-- *"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"*
 - The week to follow was full of confrontations with the religious leaders
 - The Herodians
 - Matthew 22:20-21-- *"said to them, 'Whose image and inscription is this?' They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' And He said to them, 'Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'"*
 - The Sadducees
 - The Pharisees
 - Matthew 22:37-40-- *" 'You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - Jesus' question to them regarding David's relationship to the Messiah.
 - Matthew 22:43-45-- *"How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool' "? If David then calls Him "Lord,' how is He his Son?"*
 - Jesus excoriates the religious leaders and pronounces seven "woes" on them.
 - He weeps over the spiritual blight of Israel and Jerusalem
 - He teaches His disciples about the fulfillment of the 70th week of Daniel
 - He teaches on the coming judgment the end of the age
 - On Thursday, He observes the Passover meal with His disciples in the upper room, and assigns new meaning to the broken bread and to the cup of redemption.
 - Matthew 26:28-- *"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*
 - On Friday, Jesus is tried, and then crucified on what we today call "Good Friday"
- **Why did Jesus have to die? Why was it necessary for the Son of God to be crucified? Why?**
 - **It was part of God's plan from eternity.**
 - Jesus Christ was delivered **"by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God."**
 - Acts 2:22-24-- *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."*
 - His death was prophesied centuries before Jesus was born.
 - Isaiah 53:5-6-- *"wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*
 - Jesus Christ fully understood His mission.
 - Luke 19:9-- *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*
 - Matthew 20:28-- *"the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

- **He died to procure eternal redemption for you and I**
- **By His death, He cleansed our conscience from dead works so that we are free to serve the living God.**
 - He took care of the guilt that we feel because of our sin.
 - If we feel guilty today after confessing our sins, it is the work of our adversary, the devil, the accuser of the brethren inflicting us with false guilt.
- **He died to complete the salvation of the Old Testament saints** who died in faith, looking forward to the day their Savior would come.

The Necessity of Christ's Death?

- Hebrews 9:16-28-- *"For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."*

A. A Testament demands death.

- Hebrews 9:16-20-- *"For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."*
1. A "will" is not in force until the death of the testator.
 - Hebrews 9:16b-17-- *"also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives."*
 2. The New Covenant is like a will, for it is an unconditional, one-sided compact God makes with man.
 3. The Old Covenant was also ratified through the shedding of blood.
 - Hebrews 9:18-20-- *"Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."*
- a. The historical account of the ratification
 - Exodus 24:3-8-- *"So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and*

said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

- b. No mention of sprinkling with water, scarlet wool, or hyssop
4. By the shedding of Christ's blood, the New Covenant or will was ratified, put into effect.
- Hebrews 9:15-- *"And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."*

B. The Heavenly Sanctuary needs purification.

- Hebrews 9:21-26-- *"Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*
1. **The earthly sanctuary along with its furnishings and vessels used in ministry all needed to be cleansed because of the presence of sin.**
 - a. No mention of the sprinkling of blood in Exodus 40 but the tabernacle and its furnishings were cleansed with holy anointing oil.
 - b. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest made a blood sacrifice to cleanse the tabernacle.
 - Leviticus 16:33-- *"atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly."*
 - c. When Hezekiah reopened the temple, he cleansed it with blood.
 - 2 Chronicles 29:21-- *"And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD."*
 - d. *"Almost all things are purified with blood"* (Hebrews 9:22) Thus, there were exceptions under the Law.
 - 1) Somethings were purified by water and/or by fire. (Leviticus 15:10; Numbers 31:22-23)
 - 2) Poor worshipers could bring a "cereal" offering to atone for sin. (Leviticus 5:11-13)
 - e. General rule: *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins"* (Hebrews 9:22)
 2. **The heavenly sanctuary and furnishing also needed to be cleansed.**
 - Hebrews 9:23-- *"Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these."*
 - a. **Why does the heavenly sanctuary need to be cleansed? The Presence of Satan in heaven.**
 - a. Satan today is the "prince of the power of the air", the "god of this age". It is with him and his cohorts that we do spiritual warfare.
 - Ephesians 6:12-- *"do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*
 - b. Jesus Christ, by His death on the cross and the atoning sacrifice He made, has defeated Satan and his demonic forces.
 - Colossians 2:15-- *"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."*
 - c. Satan today still has access to God where he accuses us before God when we sin.

- d. One day, in the middle of the seven-year tribulation period, Satan will lose the war in heaven and be cast down to the earth.
 - Revelation 12:7-10-- *“Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”*

- b. **Who or what purifies the heavenly sanctuary? The presence of Jesus.**
 - Hebrews 9:24-26-- *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*
 - a. Jesus Christ today acts as our advocate with the Father, defending us with His once for all sacrifice as sufficient to satisfy the righteous demands of God.
 - 1 John 2:1-2-- *“we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”*
 - b. The blood of Jesus Christ that continues to cleanse us from sin also continues to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary.
 - c. The sacrifice Jesus made as a one-time sacrifice, otherwise He would have had to suffer since the foundation of the world.
 - d. The sacrifice Jesus made was at the “end of the age”. His once for all sacrifice did not merely cover sin; it removed it.
 - e. Parenthesis: The perpetual offering of Christ in the Mass as taught by the Roman church

C. Judgment demands a substitute.

- Hebrews 9:27-28-- *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*
1. Every man will one day face death, unless raptured at Christ’s return. After death comes judgment, which is also appointed by God.
 2. Since we are unable to atone for our own sins, God’s judgment demands that either we pay or else a substitute pays for our sins.
 3. **Jesus Christ, as the perfect substitute, pays for our sin.**
 - Isaiah 53:5-6-- *“was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21-- *“made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
 - 1 Peter 2:24-- *“bore our sins in His body on the tree.”*
 4. On the Day of Atonement, the reappearance of the high priest after making the sacrifice indicate that God was satisfied with the payment for sin.
 5. Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead proved that God the Father was satisfied with the sacrifice Jesus made.
 6. When Jesus comes again, our salvation will be complete.
 7. An example of substitution: Jesus dying in the place of Barabbas.