

1-27-2026

Why the Blood Still Matters

Text: Hebrews Chapter 9 (NIV)

Opening Prayer

**Heavenly Father,
We come before You humbly and gratefully. We thank You for Your Word, which is living and active, and for the blood of Jesus Christ that still speaks on our behalf today. Open our hearts and minds to understand the truth of Your salvation. Help us see not just what You did, but *why* You did it. May this message strengthen believers, encourage the weary, and bring clarity to those who are new in the faith. We ask this in the powerful and precious name of Jesus.
Amen.**

Introduction: A Forgotten Truth in a Bloodless Culture

In our modern world, many people are uncomfortable with the idea of blood. We want salvation without sacrifice, forgiveness without cost, and grace without the cross. Some even ask, “Why did Jesus have to die?” or “Why does the Bible talk so much about blood?”

Yet the Bible boldly declares that **the blood still matters.**

Hebrews chapter 9 was written to Jewish believers who understood sacrifices, temples, priests, and blood. The author explains that everything in the Old Testament pointed forward to **Jesus Christ**, whose blood accomplished what animal blood never could.

Hebrews 9 answers one central question: **Why was the shedding of blood absolutely necessary for salvation?**

I. God's Design: The Earthly Sanctuary (Hebrews 9:1–5)

Hebrews 9:1 (NIV) 9 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

The writer begins by describing the **Tabernacle**, later replaced by the Temple.

The Layout

- **Outer Court**
- **Holy Place**
- **Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies)**

Inside the Most Holy Place were:

- **The Ark of the Covenant**
- **The gold jar of manna**
- **Aaron's staff**

. The stone tablets of the Law

Above it sat the **mercy seat**, where blood was sprinkled.

Key Truth

God was teaching Israel something visual:

➔ **Sin separates humanity from a holy God.**

Only blood could temporarily cover sin.

II. The Limitations of the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:6–10)

Hebrews 9:7 (NIV) ⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

Once a year:

- The high priest entered the Holy of Holies
- He offered blood **first for himself**, then for the people
- This blood **covered sin temporarily**

But notice:

- The priest had to repeat it every year
- The sacrifices never changed the heart
- The conscience remained burdened

Hebrews 9:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

Lesson

The Old Testament sacrifices were **shadows**, not solutions.

III. Why Blood Was Required (Old Testament Foundation)

Leviticus 17:11 (NIV) ¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

God established early that:

- **Life belongs to God**
- Sin results in **death**
- Blood represents **life poured out**

From the very beginning:

- **Abel's sacrifice** involved blood (Genesis 4)

- **Passover** required blood on the doorposts (Exodus 12)
- **The Law** required blood for atonement

Hebrews 9:22 (NIV) ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Sin is not a mistake...it is a violation of God's holiness. Forgiveness required **life for life**.

IV. Christ: The Perfect High Priest (Hebrews 9:11–12)

Hebrews 9:11 (NIV) ¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

Jesus did what no earthly priest could do.

Three Major Differences

- 1. A Greater Sanctuary**
Not made with human hands
- 2. A Better Blood**
Not goats or calves, but **His own blood**
- 3. A Permanent Redemption**

Hebrews 9:12 (NIV) ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Once for All

V. The Power of Christ's Blood (Hebrews 9:13–14)

Hebrews 9:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Animal blood:

- . Cleansed **externally**

Christ's blood:

- . Cleanses **internally**
- . Frees the conscience
- . Restores relationship with God

Why the Blood Still Matters Today

- . It forgives past sins
- . It cleanses present guilt
- . It secures future hope

VI. Jesus: The Mediator of a New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15–17)

Hebrews 9:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

A covenant requires death.

Just as a will only goes into effect after death:

- . The New Covenant required the death of Jesus
- . His blood activated God's promises

This covenant:

- . Is based on **grace**
 - . Offers **eternal inheritance**
 - . Is received by **faith**
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VII. The Superiority of Christ's Sacrifice (Hebrews 9:24–28)

Hebrews 9:28 (NIV) ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Key Contrast

Old Covenant:

- . Many sacrifices
- . Many priests
- . Many failures

New Covenant:

- . **One Savior**
- . **One sacrifice**
- . **One victory**

Jesus did not enter an earthly sanctuary—
He entered **heaven itself** on our behalf.

VIII. What This Means for Us Today

1. Salvation Is Complete

You do not need to earn forgiveness.

**Romans 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now
no condemnation for those who are in
Christ Jesus,**

2. Your Past Does Not Define You

The blood cleanses completely.

1 John 1:7 (NIV) ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

3. Worship Flows From Gratitude

Conclusion: The Blood Still Speaks

The blood of Jesus:

- Speaks mercy
- Speaks forgiveness
- Speaks redemption

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NIV) ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Never let the cross become common.
Never forget the cost of grace.
The blood still matters...because **Jesus
still saves.**

Closing Prayer:

**Lord Jesus,
Thank You for shedding Your blood for
us. Thank You that our salvation is not
based on our works, but on Your
finished work at the cross. Help us live
in gratitude, walk in holiness, and
proclaim the power of Your blood to a
world that desperately needs hope. May
we never forget the price You paid or the
love You showed.
We give You all the glory and honor,
now and forever.
Amen.**