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The Better Tabernacle Purified with Better Blood

9: 23-28

The better Tabernacle purified with better blood DIG: Because God was so satisfied with Yeshua's sacrifice, what did He do for Him (see Philippians 2:9)? Why was the tax collector justified rather than the Pharisee in the story in Luke 18? For whom did Christ appear in the presence of God? What are two proofs that are found in verses 24 and 25 that show that Messiah's sacrifice was a better one? If Jesus' sacrifice had not been sufficient, what would have to happen? The perpetual offering of Christ by the Roman Catholic Church contradicts what biblical truth?

REFLECT: The author used analogies from the TaNaKh to explain the meaning of Messiah's death to the Israelites. What analogies might you use to explain it to people you know? Does the fact that Yeshua died to take away your sins free you to serve Him more? Or make you spiritually "lazy?" Why?

There are three results of the **Messiah's** sacrifice. The third result of **His** sacrifice is **His** ministry in **the heavenly Tabernacle**. In the preceding file, the author focused on the use of **blood** for the **purifying** and remission of sin. Now, the use of **blood** in preparation for the way of approach is going to be enlarged. The author shows that **Yeshua purified the heavenly Tabernacle** through **His** own **blood** unlike Moshe who **purified the earthly Tabernacle** with **the blood** of bulls and goats. Therefore, **Yeshua** dwelt in a **better Tabernacle**, and purified it with **better blood . . . His own blood**.

Because, as seen previously, **without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins (9:22 CJB), this is how the copies of the heavenly things had to be purified, but the heavenly things themselves require better sacrifices than these (9:23 CJB). The purifying of the heavenly Tabernacle pictures the purifying of the earthly Tabernacle. The copies of the heavenly things are the earthly Tabernacle**, its seven pieces of fixtures and all its furnishings. The use of animal **blood had to be used to purify the earthly Tabernacle** because they were only **copies** and animal **blood** was sufficient **to purify** them. However, **the heavenly Tabernacle** is the original, and it was necessary to purify it with **better blood**, the **blood** of **Jesus**. Although the sacrifice that **Yeshua** made was a one-time **sacrifice**, the term **sacrifices** (Greek: *thusiais*) is plural. It is

a generic or intensive plural that shows all the **sacrifices** made during the Dispensation of the Torah were fulfilled in the one **sacrifice** of **Messiah**. **His** sacrifice had to be **better** because **the heavenly Tabernacle** required better **purifying** in keeping with its **better** nature.²⁴¹



This raises the obvious question: Why did **the heavenly Tabernacle** need to be **purified**? First, when the Adversary rebelled against **God**, he did so while he was still in **heaven** and, thus, Satan's rebellion brought sin into **heaven** itself (**Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezeki'el 28:11-19**). **The Ezeki'el** passage states that he **desecrated the sanctuary in heaven**. As a result, **heaven** was not **pure** (**Job 15:15, 25:5**). Second, mankind is untied with creation. When Adam sinned, his sin reached up to **heaven**. When **Jesus** died, **He reconciled things in heaven** as well as on **earth: He reconciled all things to Himself, whether on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross** (**Colossians 1:20**)

In verses 24-26 the Ruach HaKodesh deals with Messiah's once-for-all entrance into God's presence for us, and points out three key truths. First, Christ entered into heavenly Tabernacle. Messiah entered into **the heavenly Tabernacle** and not into **the Most Holy Place** on earth. **For the Messiah has entered the Most Holy Place that is not made with human hands and merely a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, in order to appear now on our behalf in the very presence of God (9:24 CJB).** On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (see the commentary on **Exodus**, [click to see link Go - The Day of Atonement](#)), **the high priest** entered **the Most Holy Place** alone, and, in essence **his** work there was a secret ministry. What's more, before he did so, the smoke from the Altar of Incense preceded him into **the Most Holy Place** so that **his** face was hidden. That smoke protected him from looking at the Shechinah glory, the visual manifestation of **God's** presence. So while **the high priest** entered into **the earthly Most**

Holy Place in secret and hidden by smoke, **Jesus Christ** entered boldly into **the heavenly Most Holy Place**. **He** did not enter **the Most Holy Place made with human hands**, but **made** by **YHVH** alone. When **Jesus** entered in, **He** went in for us. Isn't it beautiful to realize that when **He** went in, we went in with **Him**? Because we're **in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)**, we were ushered into the presence of **God** with **Him**.²⁴²

The second truth is that Yeshua entered with a finished atonement. Again a contrast is made between the once-for-all-time **offering** of **Messiah** compared with the yearly **offering** of the **high priest**. **Further, He did not enter the heavenly Tabernacle to offer Himself over and over again, like the high priest who enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Yeshua would have to suffer death many times - from the founding of the universe on (9:25-26:a CJB).** If **Jesus' sacrifice** had not been once-for-all-time, **He would have had to suffer from the founding of the universe. He** would have to die continuously, as it were, since the time Adam sinned. Like the work of the Levitical priesthood, **His** atoning work would have never be finished. But praise **God, His sacrifice** doesn't have to be repeated - not even once. It is completely finished.

The Roman Catholic idea of the perpetual sacrifice of **Messiah** is a heretical doctrine that for many centuries has contradicted this, and many other clear biblical teachings about the finished work of **Christ**. It maintains that, inasmuch as the priesthood of **Jesus** is perpetual and sacrifice is an essential part of **His** priesthood, therefore the sacrificial offering of **Christ** must also be perpetual.

Ludwig Ott, a Roman Catholic theologian, explains this perpetual sacrifice dogma, which was made official by that church at the Council of Trent in the middle of the sixteenth century. "The holy mass," he writes, "is a true a proper sacrifice. It is physical and propitiatory (meaning *the averting of God's wrath by means of the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus that satisfies every claim of God's holiness and justice so that He is free to act on behalf of sinners*), removing sins and conferring the grace of repentance. Propitiated by the offering of this sacrifice, **God**, by granting the grace of the gift and the gift of Penance, remits trespasses and sin however grievous they may be."²⁴³

Roman Catholics who take their church membership seriously and who, in most cases, have had it drilled into them from infancy that in the mass a daily sacrifice is offered to them, find it extremely hard to leave the Roman Church precisely because in the Messianic community, or in the evangelical church, they find no mass. And they fear that without the mass they will lose their salvation. A devout Roman Catholic regards this matter of salvation through

the mass far more seriously than most messianic Jews or believing evangelicals realize. But when one begins to read the Bible thoughtfully and prayerfully, he discovers that **Christ** made the only sacrifice necessary for salvation on the cross of Calvary, and the mass cannot possibly be a continuing sacrifice.²⁴⁴

No doubt some Catholics are saved, but in holding to the doctrine of the perpetual offering of His sacrifice, they undermine the power and significance of **Messiah's** once-for-all-time sacrifice. This false doctrine is plainly reflected in the crucifix, the ubiquitous symbol of Roman Catholicism. Whether in pictures, in statues, the cross is rarely empty in Catholic representations. To Catholics, **Yeshua** is still being crucified. In communion, or the **Lord's** Supper we *remember* **Christ's** sacrificial death, as **He** commanded us to do. But **He** is not re-sacrificed. Our **Lord** commanded **His** disciples to *remember* **His** death (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Kj - Breaking the Middle Matzah**).²⁴⁵

The third key truth is that having entered into heaven with a finished atonement, Jesus conquered sin forever. But as it is, Messiah had appeared once at the end of the ages in order to set aside sin through the sacrifice of Himself (9:26b CJB).

Having entered into heaven with a completely finished atonement, **Jesus** did away with **sin** forever in the sense that the believer is justified at the moment of faith (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Bw - What God Does For Us at the Moment of Faith**). The timing was **at the end of the ages**. This expression means it was **at the end of** the Dispensation of the Torah (see the commentary on **Exodus Da - The Dispensation of the Torah**), similar to what Rabbi Sha'ul states: **But when the appointed time arrived, God sent forth His Son. He was born from a woman, born into a culture in which legalistic perversion of the Torah was the norm (Galatians 4:4 CJB).**

When **ADONAI's** timetable reached the proper moment, **Christ** was **born** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ag - The Birth of Jesus**). The key purpose was **to do away with sin**. **He** would not merely achieve forgiveness, or temporary covering of **sin**, which the righteous of the TaNaKh achieved, but now the **sins** of the righteous would be **set aside** (Greek: *athetesin*, meaning *it was no longer in effect*). Just as the Levitical priesthood was **set aside (7:18)**, so **Yeshua** also came to **set aside sin**. Unlike the temporary work of the Levitical priests, **Messiah** did one perfect work and **set aside sin forever through the sacrifice of Himself**. Not by **blood** that was not **His** own, but by **His** own **blood**.

There were Jewish unbelievers in the Messianic congregation to which the author was writing. He had warned them that they were in danger (see **Ag - The Audience of the book of Hebrews**). But, here again, writer warns them that **just as people are destined**

to die just once. Everyone has to **die**, and our **death** is by divine appointment. This is the Bible's refutation of the concept of reincarnation, which is found in most Eastern religions and incorporated into a number of recent Western imitations. **And after that to face the judgment (9:27 CJB),** which is also appointed by **God.** Since we are not able to atone for our own **sins, Ha'Shem's judgment** demands that we pay for **them** ourselves, or have a substitute pay for **them.**

Like everyone else, **Yeshua Messiah** was divinely **destined to die just once.** But unlike us, **He** will never face **judgment.** Because **He** took out **sins** upon **Himself, He** took our **judgment** upon **Himself.** But the **judgment** was for our **sins,** not **His,** for **He** had none. **He** was our substitute. **God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21). He dies the one death that judgment demanded.**

On the Day of Atonement, the people waited eagerly to see the high priest come out from the Most Holy Place. If he did anything wrong, if he failed to follow **Ha'Shem's** precise instructions, he would die. So there was always a sight of relief, for their own sakes as well as his, when he reappeared.

That was the situation being alluded to here in **9:28.** If the people were so eager to see the former high priests reappear from the earthly Most Holy Place, how much more should believers look eagerly for their **great High Priest, Yeshua Messiah,** to reappear from the heavenly Most Holy Place? This will occur at the Second Coming (see the commentary on **Isaiah Kg - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Bozrah**).²⁴⁶

So Messiah was sacrificed once to bare the sins of many (Hebrews 9:28a quoting Isaiah 53:12); and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to deliver those who eagerly await Him (9:28b CJB). Here is the clearest statement in the Bible of the relationship between **Yeshua's** First and Second Comings. **His** First Coming fulfilled the prophecy of **Isaiah 52:13-53:12** (see the commentary on **Isaiah Iy - The Death of the Suffering Servant**), which predicted that **Messiah** would die as an atonement for human sin and be raised from the dead, so that **He** could appear a second time to fulfill such prophecies as **Isaiah 2:2-5** and **9:6-7,** which say that **Messiah** will bring peace to the world and deliver **His** people once the leadership of Isra'el asks **Him** to come back (see the commentary on **Revelation Ev - The Basis for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**).²⁴⁷

You can't forgive me for my **sins** nor can I forgive you for yours. Two kids in a mud puddle can't clean each other. They need someone clean. Someone spotless. We need someone clean us too. That's why we need a **Savior.** Trying to make it to heaven on our own



goodness is like trying to get to the moon on a moon beam . . . nice idea, but try it and see what happens. Listen. Quit trying to quench your own guilt. You can't do it. There's no way. Not with a bottle of whiskey or perfect attendance at Hebrew School or Sunday School. Sorry. I don't care how bad you are. You can't be bad enough to forget it. And I don't care how good you are. You can't be good enough to overcome it. You need a **Savior**. A **Substitute**. We all do!²⁴⁸