



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

FROM SHADOW TO SUBSTANCE

WHY CHRIST'S SACRIFICE IS BETTER

HEBREWS 10:1-10



BIBLE STUDY

WITH PASTOR MIKE HOLLOWAY



DATE:

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THE OLD WAS A SHADOW. CHRIST IS THE REALITY.



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Hebrews 10:1-10

- **10** For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.
- ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.
- ³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year.

Hebrews 10:1-10

- ⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.
- ⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:
“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.
- ⁶ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, You had no pleasure.*
- ⁷ *Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”*

Hebrews 10:1-10

- ⁸ Previously saying, “*Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them*” (which are offered according to the law),
- ⁹ then He said, “*Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.*” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.
- ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Depictions of the Old Law System

- The Priests were a **Copy** (ὑπόδειγμα), **Shadow** (σκιά) (Hebrews 8:5)
- The tabernacle was symbolic, **Figure/Symbol** (παραβολή) (Hebrews 9:9)
- Tabernacle Furnishings were **Copies/Patterns** (ὑπόδειγμα) (Hebrews 9:23)
- The Law was a **Shadow** (σκιά), **Image/Form** (εἰκὼν) (Hebrews 10:1)

Introduction

- From Shadow to Substance: Why Christ's Sacrifice Is Better

Theme: The sacrifices of the Old Covenant pointed forward to Christ, but only Christ's sacrifice could truly remove sin and accomplish God's will.

One of the greatest questions people ask is:

“Why did God require all those sacrifices in the Old Testament if they couldn't actually remove sin?”

The author has already shown us:

Christ is a better Priest.

Christ entered a better sanctuary.

Christ offered a better sacrifice.

Now he explains why the Old Covenant sacrifices had to end.

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come...”

- A shadow tells you something real is coming.
- If you see someone's shadow around a corner...you know a real person is about to appear.
- The shadow isn't fake. But it isn't the person.

The Law wasn't wrong

- The sacrifices weren't pointless.
- They simply pointed beyond themselves.
- They were God's illustrations of something greater.
- They could never make those who approach perfect.
- Every year...Another lamb. Another bull. Another goat.
- **Imagine going to the doctor every year for the exact same surgery because it never fixed the disease.**
- That's the Old Testament sacrificial system.

Sacrifices Were A Reminder of Sin

- If sacrifices truly removed sin, they would have stopped.
- Instead, every Day of Atonement reminded Israel: “You still need forgiveness.”
- Rather than removing guilt, they continually reminded people of guilt.

“It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.”

- Animals never sinned. Animals cannot substitute morally for mankind.
- Only a human can represent humanity.
- Only a perfect human can satisfy God's justice. This prepares us for Jesus.

“A body You prepared for Me... Lo, I come to do Your will.”

- Psalm 40 is quoted.
“These words are placed in Christ's mouth as He enters the world.”
- Jesus did not merely come to teach. He came to obey.
- His entire earthly life was one mission: “To do the will of My Father.”
- The cross wasn't an accident. It was the reason He came.

“A body You prepared for Me.”

- God the Son became truly human. Why?
- Because only a human could die for humans.
- Hebrews emphasizes this repeatedly.
- He became one of us so He could save us.
- God wasn't ultimately pleased with endless sacrifices. Instead, Christ said, “I come to do Your will.”

“He takes away the first to establish the second.”

- Adam failed. Israel failed. The priests failed. David failed. Every one of us has failed.
- Jesus never failed. Every thought, every action, every word—perfect obedience.
- The first: The Old Covenant sacrificial system.
- The second: God's plan accomplished through Christ.
- The reality has come. The shadow fulfilled its purpose.

“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

- Old Testament: Repeated sacrifices.
- New Testament: One sacrifice. Forever.
- Nothing else needs to be added.
- Stop trusting religious rituals.
- Stop trying to earn forgiveness.
- Live in grateful obedience.
- Worship Christ with confidence.

Contrasting the Old New Covenant and the New Covenants

Old Covenant:

- Shadow
- Animal sacrifices
- Repeated
- Reminder of sins
- Temporary covering
- Imperfect priests

New Covenant:

- Reality
- Christ's sacrifice
- Once for all
- Removal of sins
- Eternal redemption
- Perfect High Priest

The Law pointed to Christ

- Animal sacrifices symbolized atonement.
- Jesus became our substitute.
- Christ perfectly obeyed the Father.
- His sacrifice fulfilled the Old Covenant.
- Believers are sanctified through His once-for-all sacrifice.

How do we understand Ezekiel?

- **Ezekiel 45:17**
- “It shall be the prince’s part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings... He shall prepare **the sin offering**, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, **to make atonement for the house of Israel.**”

Ezekiel seems to a future sacrificial system

- Sin offerings
- Burnt offerings
- Peace offerings
- Atonement

The question becomes:

- **How do we reconcile these passages with the book of Hebrews?**

Hebrews Gives Us the Interpretive Lens

- **The New Testament—not the Old Testament—provides the final interpretation of God’s redemptive plan.**
- Jesus Himself taught this.
- Luke 24:27 – “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”
- The Prophets must therefore be interpreted through Christ.
- Hebrews 10:1 “For the law, having **a shadow** of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things...”

Christ Ended the Sacrificial System

- Hebrews 10:9 - “He takes away the first that He may establish the second.”
- Notice the language. Not “adds to.” Not “temporarily suspends.”
- He **takes away** the first covenantal system. Why?
- To establish the New Covenant.
- The sacrificial system has been fulfilled in Christ.

Ezekiel Was Speaking in Old Covenant Categories

- **The prophets often described future spiritual realities using the language familiar to their original audience.**
- For Israel, the highest picture of God's blessing was:
- Temple, Priesthood, Sacrifices, Holy land, River, Jerusalem
- Those were the symbols through which they understood fellowship with God.
- Ezekiel uses those covenantal images to describe the future blessings of God's redeemed people.

The safest hermeneutical principle is this:

- Allow the clearer revelation of the New Testament to interpret the prophetic imagery of the Old Testament—not the other way around.