

Ponderings in Hebrews

The following is a Messianic Study on

Hebrews 10.5-10

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Brit Chadashah (Sydney)

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If you don't know Yeshua as your Messiah, we encourage you to search out the Scriptures for yourself. God promised in the book of Jeremiah, “*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29:13)

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Pondering Hebrews 10 The sufficiency and effectiveness of Messiah's sacrifice

The sufficiency of the sacrifice of the Messiah - 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, But a body You have prepared for Me;" ⁶ In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. ⁷ "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) To do Your will, O God.'"

⁸ After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Messiah Yeshua once for all.

God prepared a special body for the Messiah, so that when He came, Yeshua was able to do away with the animal sacrifices. Animal sacrifices could never do what the blood of Yeshua could and did do. The quote from Psalm 40:6-8 appears not to be from the Masoretic Hebrew text, which has "my ears You have opened," indicating that the Messiah had not stopped listening to God nor become disobedient to the will of the Father. But the text uses the Greek translation (which is based on an older Hebrew text) and this is an interpretation of the text, where a part of the body is being put forth for the whole. As such it says "a body You prepared me". In the light of the ministry of Yeshua we now understand that this body was to be given as a guilt offering (Isaiah 53:10).

The reason the Lord does not want endless sacrifices is because they could not take away the guilt. As such these animal sacrifices were only ever meant to be temporary. Other passages include Isaiah 1:11; Jeremiah 6:20; Hosea 6:6; and Amos 5:21-22. They all teach the same thing. God is saying that the final offering to be brought would be the *body* He Himself prepared for Messiah so that there would be a single offering brought Once for All for sin.

There was no personal obedience, nor faith from the animals themselves. These sacrifices were offered up because of the demands of the Torah. This is contrasted with Yeshua, for about Him it says 'Behold, I have come To do Your will, O God.' He could have said no, but during His conversation with the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, he repeatedly says: ³⁹ "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." Three times Yeshua prayed, in all these He requested that this cup pass from Him, but He came to do the will of His Father (Matthew 26:30, 36-40; Mark 14:26, 32-42 & Luke 22:39-46), and it was the will of the Father to have the Son drink the cup. The contrast here was that the animals had no personal obedience and came without faith. Because Yeshua had both personal obedience and faith He could become that final sacrifice for sin.

The second half of verse 9 indicates the outcome. His sacrifice ends the Law of Moses: *the first* and this act of obedience established the *second*, that is the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25 and Luke 22:17-20).

Believers in Messiah according to verse 10 have been sanctified through Him once for all. Our sanctification that means our being set apart to God is based on the sacrifice of Yeshua, not our offerings or sacrifices that we have brought to God. This is a one off. We have been

sanctified, set apart, made permanently holy, and all of this is based on the once for all sacrifice of Yeshua.

The effectiveness of the Priestly ministry of Messiah - 10:11-14

¹¹ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹² but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

The contrast is being drawn to every single Levitical priest, of which there have been and still were many. They had to stand and bring morning and evening sacrifices. They stood and continually ministered in the earthly Tabernacle and later in the Temple their work was never ever done. Here is the difference. Yeshua's work is done once for all; a single one off sacrifice that did take away the sins. And in further contrast He sat down, while none of the Levitical priests could ever sit down because their work was never finished. Yeshua sat down at the right hand of God; it would have been an incredible chutzpah to sit in the Holy place, let alone next to God's throne, the Ark of the Covenant, which was inside the Holy of Holies. But Yeshua does sit next to God, and His sitting down on High shows the finality of the sacrifices which had been accepted by God. And He sits on the right hand, which is the seat of power (Exodus 15:6)

He will remain with the Father until such times as the Kingdom will be established on earth. It is then that Yeshua will be acting in the third office of the Messiah. Firstly, He was a prophet, here He is the priest and then He will be King. This is *until (all) His enemies be made a footstool for His feet*, a quote from Psalm 110:1. At the second coming Messiah will come in power and glory (Habakkuk 3) and reign (Psalm 2) with an everlasting kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14) and destroy all His enemies (1 Corinthians 15:26). When He comes it won't be with the message of salvation, but for those who have been waiting for Him. His return will be glorious to those who are eager for His appearance (Hebrews 9:28).

The finality is again addressed, in that by the one sacrifice, all who have trusted in Him have been perfected forever. They have been sanctified through His work in the Heavenly Tabernacle. So we have already been accepted, as sanctified by the work of Messiah. Here the author of Hebrews is saying that because we are *IN Messiah*, God sees Messiah in us, and we are therefore perfect forever. The blood that Messiah splashed on the Heavenly Tabernacle was from His pure and sinless sacrifice. It was his blood that perfects you and me, and all those who trust in Yeshua forever, for it is the once for all sacrifice.

In all this we see the sufficiency and effectiveness of Messiah's sacrifice, but we too have been called to be a sacrifice. Romans 12:1 "*¹Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*" Friends, Yeshua sat down as He has finished His work but His work in us and our work for Him continues till He calls us home.

*I hope this illuminates your study on the sufficiency and effectiveness of Messiah's sacrifice
Blessings in Messiah Yeshua
Paul & Sue Cohen*