

Ponderings in Hebrews

The following is a Messianic Study on

Hebrews 9

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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 9: The Blood of Yeshua

The author of Hebrews makes three significant points in the latter half of chapter 9 about Yeshua's blood:

1. Hebrews 9:11-14 Messiah's Blood Cleanses Our Consciences
2. Hebrews 9:15 Yeshua is the mediator of the New Covenant
3. Hebrews 9:16-22 "Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Space and time does not permit me to deal with verses 1-10, where he walks us through the Tabernacle, though we have done this study at Brit Chadashah, so I hope you will remember.

Hebrews 9:11-14 Messiah's Blood Cleanses Our Conscience

- *11 But when Messiah appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

The Place

The greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands. Moses was shown the greater and more perfect Tabernacle (Exodus 25:9) and he then describes all this to Bezalel and Oholiab, two men who are charged with creating the items (Exodus 31:1-11). And while it was good, and set apart for the ministry, it was made by men who were sinful; this more perfect tabernacle, in contrast, was not made by men but God Himself. As such, the author brings out that this is better than.

The Offering

Yeshua brings, as the High Priest, a superior offering, His blood. The contrast being made with *the blood of goats and calves*, the blood of these two animals was used on the Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), as described in Leviticus 16. The blood of calves (bulls) was carried in and sprinkled for the high priest, while the blood of the goats was carried in and sprinkled for the people of Israel. The blood of the animals had to be sacrificed yearly, and did not bring an eternal redemption; otherwise they would have stopped the offerings. The blood of Messiah is not only superior, in that it is *once for all* (Hebrews 9:26), but it also enables the nations to be purified, not just Israel, but "*so shall he sprinkle many nations*" (Isaiah 52:15). Some translations have translated this verse as "so shall he **startle** many nations." However, the Hebrew verb נָטַף *natza*, means to sprinkle or splatter, and it is used this way three times alone in Leviticus 16 (verses 14,15,19).

Messiah's blood is able to cleanse all because He brings *eternal redemption*. This can be seen in Hebrews 12:22-29 which describes the eternal order, "*the heavenly Jerusalem*," and there is still the blood of Messiah.

The background to the *ashes of a heifer* and the *sprinkling*, is found in Numbers 19. It is a part of the laws of ritual purification. In order to purify the people who had become unclean because they touched a dead body, a red heifer was burned up and the ashes were to be mixed with water to purify and cleanse them, not from sin, but ritual defilement or ceremonial uncleanness. The prophet Zechariah used this imagery of cleansing when he talked about the Messiah being revealed to Israel (Zechariah 12:10-13:1).

Please allow me to simplify this. Messiah brought His blood into the heavenly tabernacle to cleanse us from sin, AND He purified us from our defilements and uncleanness, by sprinkling us with the waters of purification.

When Yeshua died Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45 tell us that "*the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*" The eternal access was now granted to all, as such the writer can talk about us having a full assurance of faith. Hebrews 10:19-20 "*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Yeshua, 20 by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh*".

We are called to come up and worship God and the Lamb, who sits on the throne because our sins are remembered no more and we have been purified, in order that we may serve the Living God, just as we are to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10).

Hebrews 9:15 Messiah the mediator of the New Covenant

Hebrews 9:15 "*For this reason He is the mediator of a New Covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*"

Twice before the author has already mentioned the New Covenant (Hebrews 7:22, 8:6). Here Yeshua is the mediator. What is a *mediator*? A mediator is one who intervenes between two parties. Here in Hebrews the two parties are the Holy God and sinful men, though in Ephesians (2:11-22) the reconciliation ministry of Yeshua also extends to Jew and Gentile. It is for this reason that God sent His son, the only mediator able to restore us in relationship (1 Timothy 2:5-6) to each other and with Him and in all things "*whether on earth or in heaven*" (Colossians 1:20).

Hebrews 9:16-22 "Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

¹⁶ *For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.* ¹⁷ *For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.* ¹⁸ *Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.* ¹⁹ *For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,* ²⁰ *saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you."* ²¹ *And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.* ²² *And according to the*

Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The word covenant here has the meaning of a *legal will* that is enforced after the death of the person who made it. So Yeshua had to die before the New Covenant took effect. When the former covenant was *inaugurated* with blood (Exodus 24:1-8) it intended to convey two things: (1) the people would obey (Exodus 24:1-8); and (2) **if** they obeyed, God would bless them as His people (Exodus 19:5-6). This is equally true under the New Covenant. God still calls us to obey (John 14:15) and His calling on them is extended also to us (Revelation 1:7).

For the will, the New Covenant to be in effect. There had to be *shedding of blood*; for without it *there is no forgiveness* (Leviticus 17:11). Again the author points to the necessity of the blood of Yeshua, for it is in the blood that we have cleansing for purifications and the forgiveness of sins.

Friends we have been forgiven and we have been cleansed so let us therefor walk in the light of the LORD.

*Hope this illuminated your understanding
Blessings in Messiah Yeshua
Paul & Sue Cohen*