

Bible Study Guide - Hebrews 9:15-28

Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall / Winter 2017-2018

The Greater Sanctuary
(Chapter 9)

The Greater Covenant (Chapters 8 to 10)

Therefore...

Because He:

- *Appeared as a high priest (11)
- *Entered the holy places (12)
- *Offered His own blood (12)
- *Secured eternal redemption (12)

Death

The writer uses the dual meaning of the word **diathēkē** to emphasize that the new covenant could not go into effect without death of the testator.

Ex 24:8 / Mt 26:28

- 18-19 contain details concerning the confirmation of the covenant that are not recorded in Ex 24:1-8
- 21 contains details concerning the consecration of the tabernacle not recorded in Lv 8:14-36

"almost everything"

Ephah of fine flour
-Lev 5:11-13

Water
-Lev 15:10

Fire and "the water of impurity"
-Num 31:22-23

Incense
-Num 16:46

Gold
-Num 31:50

Such ceremonies were all exceptions

¹⁵ **Therefore** he is the *mediator of a new covenant*, so that those who are called may *receive the promised eternal inheritance*, since a **death has occurred** that *redeems* them from the *transgressions committed under the first covenant*. ¹⁶ For where a **will** is involved, the **death** of the *one who made it* must be established. ¹⁷ For a **will** takes effect only at **death**, since it is not in force **as long as the one who made it is alive**.

Promised
-Heb 8:6-13

Transgressions
-Rom 3:21-26

The writer is arguing that for a **diathēkē** to be effective, death must occur - This applied even for the old covenant

¹⁸ Therefore **not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood**. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and 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 that God commanded for you.**" ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood *both the tent and all the vessels used in worship*. ²² Indeed, under the law **almost everything** is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins**.

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better **sacrifices** than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into **holy places** made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into **heaven itself**, now to appear **in the presence of God on our behalf**. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the **high priest** enters the holy places every year with **blood** not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the **sacrifice** of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been **offered once** to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Will

- διαθήκη **diathēkē**

-Translated "covenant" elsewhere in Hebrews..See v. 15

-Hard to follow in English because there is no precise equivalent

-Denotes a laying down of what is to be done and is the normal word for a last will and testament

-Also suited to covenants God makes with people, because God lays down the terms...They are not negotiated

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Sacrifices

-Where atonement really matters (i.e. heavenly places), a better sacrifice is required.

-Offer repeatedly
9:12; 7:27

Holy places

Tabernacle vs. Heaven Itself

Appear a Second Time

2Th 1:5-12

Hebrews Chapter 8 - Questions for Discussion

When is a will (or testament) in force? How much power does it have before then?
(vv. 15-22)

According to the law, how many things were to be “purified with blood?” (v. 22)

What are the “copies of the things in the heavens?” (v. 23)

Where did Christ enter? How often will He visit there? (v. 24-25)

What did Christ “put away” by His sacrifice? (v. 26)

What is “the end of the ages” in this context? (v. 27)

What happens after our death? (v. 28)

Who are those who “wait for Him?” (v. 28)

Teacher's Notes

Therefore

Hebrews 9:11–14 (ESV)

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Promised

Hebrews 8:6–13 (ESV)

⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,

⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.
For they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.”

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¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Transgressions

Romans 3:21–26 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Will

1347 διαθήκη (*diathēkē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 1382; Str 1242; TDNT 2.106—**1.** LN 34.43 **making of a covenant**, promise in a solemn agreement (Mk 14:24; Lk 1:72; 22:20; Ac 3:25; 7:8; Ro 11:27; 1Co 11:25; 2Co 3:6; Gal 4:24; Eph 2:12; Heb 7:22; 12:24; 13:20); **2.** LN 34.44 **covenant**, the content of an agreement between two parties (Gal 3:15); **3.** LN 57.124 **testament**, making of a will (Heb 9:16, 17+)¹

1242. διαθήκη *diathēkē*; from 1303; *testament, will, covenant*:—covenant(30), covenants(3).²

Inaugurated

Exodus 24:1–8 (ESV)

¹ Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. ² Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him.”

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Thomas, R. L. (1998). [New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition](#). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." ⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Leviticus 8:14–36 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then he brought the bull of the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull of the sin offering. ¹⁵ And he killed it, and Moses took the blood, and with his finger put it on the horns of the altar around it and purified the altar and poured out the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it to make atonement for it. ¹⁶ And he took all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar. ¹⁷ But the bull and its skin and its flesh and its dung he burned up with fire outside the camp, as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁸ Then he presented the ram of the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram. ¹⁹ And he killed it, and Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar. ²⁰ He cut the ram into pieces, and Moses burned the head and the pieces and the fat. ²¹ He washed the entrails and the legs with water, and Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering for the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

²² Then he presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram. ²³ And he killed it, and Moses took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. ²⁴ Then he presented Aaron's sons, and Moses put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar. ²⁵ Then he took the fat and the fat tail and all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat and the right thigh, ²⁶ and out of the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened loaf and one loaf of bread with oil and one wafer and placed them on the pieces of fat and on the right thigh. ²⁷ And he put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD. ²⁸ Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ²⁹ And Moses took the breast and waved it for a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' portion of the ram of ordination, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and also on his sons and his sons' garments.

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So he consecrated Aaron and his garments, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

³¹ And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and there eat it and the bread that is in the basket of ordination offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.' ³² And what remains of the flesh and the bread you shall burn up with fire. ³³ And you shall not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are completed, for it will take seven days to ordain you. ³⁴ As has been done today, the LORD has commanded to be done to make atonement for you. ³⁵ At the entrance of the tent of meeting you shall remain day and night for seven days, performing what the LORD has charged, so that you do not die, for so I have been commanded." ³⁶ And Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD commanded by Moses.

Matthew 26:28 (ESV)

²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

"almost everything"

EPHAH OF FINE FLOUR

Leviticus 5:11–13 (ESV)

¹¹ "But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two pigeons, then he shall bring as his offering for the sin that he has committed a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. He shall put no oil on it and shall put no frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering. ¹² And he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take a handful of it as its memorial portion and burn this on the altar, on the LORD's food offerings; it is a sin offering. ¹³ Thus the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed in any one of these things, and he shall be forgiven. And the remainder shall be for the priest, as in the grain offering."

WATER

Leviticus 15:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ And whoever touches anything that was under him shall be unclean until the evening. And whoever carries such things shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

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FIRE AND “THE WATER OF IMPURITY”

Numbers 31:22–23 (ESV)

²² only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, ²³ everything that can stand the fire, you shall pass through the fire, and it shall be clean. Nevertheless, it shall also be purified with the water for impurity. And whatever cannot stand the fire, you shall pass through the water.

INCENSE

Numbers 16:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun.”

GOLD

Numbers 31:50 (ESV)

⁵⁰ And we have brought the LORD’s offering, what each man found, articles of gold, armlets and bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and beads, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD.”

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SACRIFICES

Hebrews 7:27 (ESV)

²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 9:12 (ESV)

¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Appear a Second Time

2 Thessalonians 1:5–12 (ESV)

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his

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mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.