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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## The New Covenant's Sacrifice Heb 9:11-22

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Undergirding today's study are three concepts that are vitally important in the book of Hebrews. Those three are high priest, covenant, and blood. A priest is a go-between; another word we could use is mediator. That position in Old Testament times involved interceding with God on behalf of unclean people (see Leviticus 14; 15). The founding of the Old Testament priesthood is recorded in Exodus 28; 29 and Leviticus 8. The high priest is the one "who has had the anointing oil poured on his head" (Leviticus 21:10). The opening verses of Hebrews 8 pronounce that Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry than the priestly ministry of the first covenant. In so doing, he has become the mediator of a superior covenant—a covenant that is based on better promises (Hebrews 8:1, 2, 6). When the writer quotes Jeremiah 31:31–34 regarding God's offer of a new covenant (Hebrews 8:8–12), the implication is that there was a flaw in the old covenant. Any flaw, however, was not on God's side. Humanity proved unable and/or unwilling to honor the provisions of that covenant (Hebrews 8:7, 8, 13). The early part of Hebrews 9 then describes the old covenant sanctuary, the tabernacle. This structure and its successor (the temple) provided Israel only limited access to God. Barriers still existed between the worshipper and God (compare Exodus 29:9; Hebrews 9:7, 8). The mention of blood in Hebrews 9:7 prepares the reader for the frequent use of that word throughout our lesson text for today. Scripture treats blood as the life force of a creature (Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:10–14; Deuteronomy 12:23). The use of blood of sacrificed animals to save Israel is seen explicitly in the blood of lambs smeared on doorposts in Egypt (Exodus 12:7). The mention of blood is connected with violent death (see Genesis 4:10; Matthew 27:4, 24, 25). Hebrews 9:1–10 describes the worship and sacrificial practices under the old covenant as temporary and inadequate for cleansing worshippers' sins. In God's redemptive plan, Israel merely anticipated "the time of the new order" that would come through the ministry of Christ (Hebrews 9:10). That ministry is tightly connected with the concepts of high priest, covenant, and blood.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**The Old Testament Way** - Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai, received the Ten Commandments, then delivered them to the Hebrew children—God's laws to live by. By obeying these laws completely, they would truly be His holy people and His righteous representatives on earth.

**The New Testament Way** - However, Jesus declared Himself as the way to enter into God's presence. The Book of Hebrews repeatedly refers to Him as a High Priest. Why? Because Jesus didn't just offer sacrifices—Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, once and for all, with His death. He suffered and died willingly, motivated by love. Now, He intercedes for man with the Father in heaven. Jesus offered the perfect purification. Once you are washed in His blood, your sins are eternally pardoned, and you can boldly approach God. God now looks at only one sacrifice, the death of His Son.

**Forgiveness to Reach God** - Today, all these biblical references about bloody sacrifices may appear distasteful and gruesome. But the Jews understood these rituals as God's way to graciously forgive their sins. God's Word tells us there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Perfect forgiveness from God requires a perfect sacrifice, which was Jesus and His blood shed on Calvary.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Our Salvation is free because Christ paid the price

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

Here we rest in wonder, viewing  
All our sins on Jesus laid,  
And a full redemption flowing  
From the sacrifice He made. —  
Shirley

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation*

(Heb 8:28 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 04, 1995)*

**Series: Covenant in God**

**UNIT: A Fulfilled Covenant**

**NEXT WEEK**

Hearts United in Love

(Col 2:1-15)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **A Sacrifice for a Better Tabernacle (Heb 9:11-14)**

#### *Greater and perfect tabernacle (11)*

Greater and perfect because Jesus is in Heaven (Acts 7:44-49)

Greater and perfect because of being a perfect High Priest serving in the true tabernacle (Heb 8:1-2)

Greater and perfect because Jesus will spread His tabernacle over His people (Rev 7:15)

Greater and perfect because Jesus' tabernacle includes His people (Rev 13:1-6)

#### *Tabernacle of eternal redemption (12)*

A redemption that is part of Jesus' rescue (Rom 7:24-25)

A redemption that has the Holy Spirit as a guarantee (2 Cor 5:2-5)

A redemption that has a promise of a transformation into glory (Phil 3:20-21)

A redemption that has as a reward a crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

A redemption because we are God's possession (Eph 1:14)

A redemption by a God that has unfailing love (Ps 130:7)

#### *Tabernacle of perfect cleansing (13-14)*

Cleansing that comes by the purging and washing done by God (Ps 51:6-10)

Cleansing of the inside versus the outside only (Matt 23:25-28)

Cleansing of the heart by faith (Acts 15:8-9)

Cleansing of everything that contaminates (2 Cor 7:1)

Cleansing by obedience to the truth of God's Word (1 Peter 1:22)

### **A Sacrifice for a Better Covenant (Heb 9:15-18)**

#### *A new covenant (15)*

A New Covenant that was introduced through Jesus' blood (1 Cor 11:23-26)

A New Covenant that is mediated by Jesus (Heb 9:13-15)

A New Covenant that was illustrated by the two women of Hagar and Sarah (Gal 4:21-31)

A New Covenant that is made in the hearts and mind (Heb 10:15-18)

Explanation of the New Covenant (from Barnes' Notes)

#### *A covenant appropriated by death (16-17)*

Appropriated through Jesus' death to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18)

Appropriated through Jesus' death to prove true love (1 John 3:16)

Appropriated through Jesus' death so that Jesus lives in and through us (Gal 2:20)

Appropriated through Jesus' death because Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant (Heb 9:15)

#### *A covenant dedicated with blood (18)*

Dedicated with blood as the atonement vehicle for sins (Lev 17:11)

Dedicated with blood that cleanses everything (Heb 9:22)

Dedicated with blood that reconciled man to God (Col 1:19-20)

Dedicated with blood that washes our conscience clean (Heb 10:22)

#### *A Sacrifice of Better Blood (Heb 9:19-22)*

A better blood than the Old Covenant (19-20)

Because Jesus' blood justifies and saves us (Rom 5:9)

Because Jesus' blood provides confidence to enter the Most Holy Place (Heb 10:19-22)

Because Jesus' blood brings reconciliation (Col 1:18-20)

Because Jesus' blood starts the New Covenant (Matt 26:28)

Because Jesus' blood brings redemption (Eph 1:7)

#### *A better blood for purification (21-22)*

Because Jesus' blood redeems (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Because Jesus' blood brings us near to God (Eph 2:13)

Because Jesus' blood make us holy (Heb 13:12)

Because Jesus' blood proves access to God (Heb 10:19)

Because Jesus' blood introduced the New Covenant (1 Cor 11:23-26)