The Supremacy of The Son of God

Studies in Hebrews

35) Superior Priesthood (part 4) Heb. 9:11-12

**Hebrews 9:11-12** But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come736, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, he entered once for all into the holy places, having obtain eternal redemption.

**Outlines:**

A. Christ is **Superior to the Prophets** (1:1-3)

B. Christ is **Superior to the Angels** (1:4–2:18)

C. Christ is **Superior to Moses** (3:1–4:16)

            D. Christ is **Superior to Aaron** (5:1-10:18)

1. **Superior High Priest** (5:1-7-28)

2. **Superior Priesthood** (8:1-10:18)737

- Better Sanctuary (8:1-6)

- Better Covenant (8:7-13)

- Better Ministry (9:1-28)

- A review of the OT ministry 1-10

a. Introduction v1

b. The earthly sanctuary v2-5

c. The OT ordinance v6-10

- The supremacy of the ministry of Christ v 11-28738

a. Introduction: comparing old vs new 11-12

b. Because of the power of his blood 13-22

i. in cleansing the conscience 13-14

ii. in inaugurating the new covenant 15-22

c. Because he entered into heavens 23-24

d. Because he put away sin once and for all 25-26

e. Because he saves from the judgment 27-28

- Better Sacrifice (10:1-18)

Just as 9:1 served as an introduction to 9:1-10, here also in 9:11-28 we can see that 11-12 serves as an introduction. In v 11-12 the author of Hebrews is setting the stage for the supremacy of the ministry of Christ by drawing a brief comparison between the ministry of Christ and the ministry of the OT high priest.

He possesses a better priesthood 11a “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come”

1. He entered with his own blood 12a “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood” which is expounded in v 13-22
2. He entered once and for all 12b “He entered…once for all” which is expounded in v25-26
3. He entered a better sanctuary 12b “he entered the holy place.” which is expounded in v 23-24
4. He obtained eternal redemption 12c “having obtained eternal redemption.” which is expanded in v 27-28

**“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things which has come”**

In **v 10,** the author of Hebrews told us the ministry of the old covenant was “concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.” In v **11a** , the author of Hebrews tells us that the “time of reformation” has now come by the coming of Christ as our high priest. This understanding of v 11a is confirmed by the parallel statement in **v 26** that Christ “appeared at the climax of the ages,” where the reference is clearly eschatological in character and corresponds to “the time of correction” in v 10.739

“the good things,” has reference precisely to those aspects of redemption that the old order could not provide, namely, decisive purgation and full access to God (see *Comment* on vv 8–9, 14).740

1. **He entered with his own blood 12a**

Unlike the OT high priest, Jesus entered “not by means of the **blood of goats and calves**.” The distinct association of blood of goats and calves was prescribed for the annual atonement sacrifices under the old covenant (Lev 16:3, 5–11, 15–16; see *Comment* on 9:7). The goat was provided for the sacrificial offering of the people, and the calf for the sacrifice offered by the high priest for himself and his household.741

The blood of animals in the book of Hebrews is always associated with inefficacy. The author of Hebrews already told us in **Hebrews 7:11,** “If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood *(with its sacrificial system -italic mine)*…why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?”

The author of Hebrews just told his readers “the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.” **9:9.**

Later on the author of Hebrews told us plainly “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” **Hebrews 10:4.**

By entering to the holy of holies with his own blood, Jesus was both the high priest and the sacrifice.

Unlike the inefficiency of the blood of goats and calves, when Jesus entered the holy of holies with his blood, he secured “eternal redemption” v12. The author of Hebrews elaborated on the power of Jesus' blood later on in 9:13-22. It is because of  the power of the blood of Jesus that we entered into this following blessings:

1. cleansed our conscience from dead work to serve the living God v13-14
2. to provide true forgiveness thus allowing us to enter into a new covenant with God v15-22

1. **He entered once and for all 12b**

Because the sacrifices of the OT failed to obtain perfection i.e coming close of God 7:11,19 or cleanse the conscience 9:9 or take away sin 10:4, the Levitical high priest who was obligated to enter the Most Holy Place “year by year” (9:7). the writer qualifies Christ’s entrance into the heavenly sanctuary by the word ἐφάπαξ, “once for all,” a term that excludes both the necessity and the possibility of repetition. Christ’s entry was definitive, and it achieved final redemption.742

The phrase once and for all was repeated throughout the book of Hebrews:

**Heb 7:27** Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

**Heb 9:25-26** Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Heb 10:10** And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1. **He entered a better sanctuary 12b**

**“…then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 …he entered…the holy places”**

In 9:6-8, we saw that in the day of the atonement high priest would enter into the 2nd chamber (holies of holies) THROUGH the 1st chamber once a year.

In the same manner Jesus entered THROUGH a 1st chamber to reach the holy of holies. That is to say that Jesus passing through heavens (i.e. the greater and more perfect tent, not made with hands, that is, not of this creation v11) Jesus entered into the actual presence of God (i.e. the holy place v12) That reminds us of what the author of Hebrews already told us:

**Heb 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession743.

**In Hebrews 6:19-20.** The author of Hebrews already told us “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf…”

Later in the chapter, the author of Hebrews wrote “For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence” **9:24**

1. **He obtained eternal redemption 12c**

Unlike the blood of animals under the old covenant that failed to secure salvation, the blood of Jesus secured eternal redemption.

Redemption is the purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom.744 The price Jesus paid to set us free was his own blood. The same idea was emphasized by Peter “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” **1 Peter 1:18-19.**

The redemption that Jesus obtained with his blood was **“eternal**” redemption. While all the blood shed under the old covenant failed to secure any redemption. The blood of Jesus obtained a redemption that is forever. Other than the eternal redemption, in Hebrews we read that Jesus:

**Heb 5:9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

**Heb 9:15** For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance

**Heb 13:20** the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep