**Week of June 16, 2019**

**Hebrews 9:11-22**

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book\*, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson we look at the epistle or letter to the Hebrews which is sandwiched between the Pauline Epistles and the general epistles. In Hebrews 9, the author references the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies. This was a restricted area reserved only for priest. The tabernacle references the heavenly sanctuary of God’s presence. The ack of the covenant was contained in the Holy of Holies. God told Moses that he was to tell Aaron, the high priest, that He would appear in the cloud over the mercy seat, which was the lid of the ark of the covenant.

The veil to the Holy of Holies was torn upon the shedding of Jesus’ blood and Jesus became our “High Priest.” Hebrews is the only book that refers to Jesus as “High Priest.” Jesus represented a perfection and holiness that the Old Testament priesthood could never reach. His blood was superior over animal blood and was the perfect ransom to pay for our sins, once and for all. “Once for all” contrast with the numerous sacrifices of the Old Testament system which had to be repeated over and over. Jesus became our mediator and brought forth a better covenant. In verse 16, the author compared the covenant to a will. The word will is the same Greek word that is translated as “covenant” but is used here in the sense of a last and will testament that is not active or effective until the death of the one who wrote the will. Jesus’ death symbolized both a will and a covenant. Through his death, God’s promise is fulfilled and everyone who is connected to God by faith in His Son, Jesus, is able to share in the inheritance of eternal life.

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