

Hebrews 9:18 – 10:4

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ¹⁸Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated
 2 without **blood**. ¹⁹For when every commandment had been
 3 spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law,
 4 he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water
 5 and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book
 6 itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the
 7 covenant which God commanded you.” ²¹And in the same
 8 way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of
 9 the ministry with the blood. ²²And according to the Law,
 10 one may almost say, all things are **cleansed** with blood,
 11 and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

12 ²³Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in
 13 the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly
 14 things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For
 15 Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere*
 16 copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear
 17 in the presence of God for us; ²⁵nor was it that He would
 18 offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place
 19 year by year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶Otherwise,
 20 He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation
 21 of the world; but now once at the consummation of the
 22 ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the
 23 sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed for
 24 men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, ²⁸so Christ
 25 also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,
 26 will appear a second time for salvation without *reference*
 27 to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

28 **10** For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good
 29 things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never,
 30 by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by
 31 year, make perfect those who draw near. ²Otherwise,
 32 would they not have ceased to be offered, because the
 33 worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer
 34 have had consciousness of sins? ³But in those *sacrifices*
 35 there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴For it is
 36 impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away
 37 sins.

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle repeated words or ideas.
- Underline action related to sin or impurities.
- **X** actions or ideas the writer negates.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Summarize the different descriptions of what is done regarding your sin.
- How does this writer's emphasis on Christ's work compare or contrast with your previous thinking? How does it compare or contrast with what you know from Paul's writings?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How might these paragraphs have affected a first-century believer with a strong Jewish background?
- How does familiarity with the gospel and long experience as a Christian affect your response to this passage?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He has done and what He is doing?

For additional thought and discussion:

- Consider the vocabulary of Paul and the pastor to the Hebrews:

| | Paul | Hebrews |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Blood | 13 times | 22 times |
| Cross/Crucify | 18 times | 2 times |
| Death | 47 times | 10 times |

What conclusions (or questions) do you have about the different emphases?

Read Leviticus 16 for the Jewish perspective on the old covenant sacrificial process.

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation

(What does it say?)

What facts do you observe about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation

(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application

(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life?
What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.**

J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.