



The old and the new covenant have many things in common.

However, the differences show that the first one was just a shadow of the reality of the second.



THE OLD COVENANT

THE NEW COVENANT

Mount Sinai Heb. 12:18

Earthly sanctuary Heb. 9:1

Imperfect sacrifices Heb. 9:9

Imperfect priests Heb. 7:27

Mount Zion Heb. 12:22

Heavenly sanctuary Heb. 8:2

Perfect sacrifice Heb. 9:26

Perfect priest Heb. 7:28

The sanctuary of the new covenant:

God comes close to humans

The sacrifice of the new covenant:

. ■ Blood and sin

Our substitute

The Priest of the new covenant:

Our High Priest

The heavenly ministry

GOD COMES CLOSE TO HUMANS

"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)

God's main reason to ask Israel to build a sanctuary was to live with them.

But how can a holy God live among sinful people?

The solution was included in the sanctuary. How?







All the ceremonies and rites were created to bring forgiveness, holiness, and restoration to the people.

This way, God could have a close and lovely relationship with them.

"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)

Blood was a main element in the forgiveness process. The blood of the animals had to be spilled in place of the sinner's blood.

That blood was sprinkled on the sanctuary, so the sin was symbolically transferred to it. In that moment, the former sinner was restored and could have full communion with God.



Nevertheless, the blood could not remove sins by itself (Hebrews 10:4), but it was a symbol of the blood of the Lamb of God, the blood of the new covenant "which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28).



OUR SUBSTITUTE

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

The sacrifices of the animals were prophetic: they were

announcing our substitute, Jesus (Isaiah 53)



He suffers our sorrows

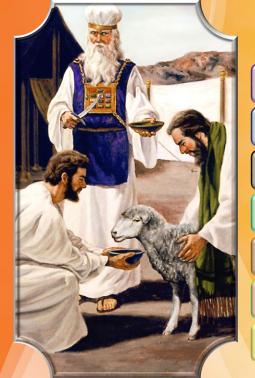
He heals us by His wound

God carries our sins on Him

He expiates our sins

He carries our iniquities

He prays for our transgressions







OUR SUBSTITUTE

"For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life [...] it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw."

(1 Peter 1:18-19 GNT)

Substitution is the key to the Plan of Salvation.

In the old covenant, the sinners deserved to die, but they were replaced by an animal that died in their place.

In the new covenant, we deserve to die, but we were replaced by Jesus who died in our place.

God accepts Jesus as our Substitute and forgives us, restores us, and gives us everlasting life.





There is no one so sinful that God cannot accept Jesus as their substitute. Therefore, let us "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)





OUR HIGH PRIEST

"Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands." (Hebrews 8:1-2 NLT)





When the animal died, the sinner was forgiven and could leave. However, the rite continued. The priest had to minister with the blood of that animal.

In the same way, the death of Jesus on the cross means forgiveness for us. However, the work of Jesus in our favor did not end there.

The earthly sanctuary was just a shadow, a symbol of the true Heavenly Sanctuary. Jesus brings His blood to the true Sanctuary. He is our High Priest; "therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:25)

THE HEAVENLY MINISTRY

"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." (Hebrews 9:24)

What is Jesus' ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary?



Basically, He is interceding for us before God. He is the Mediator between Heaven and Earth, between humans and God.

Jesus is the only human being that can come before God with no sins at all. He is victim and mediator, sacrifice and priest (1Tim. 2:5-6).



He asks the Father to accept His sinless life instead of our sinful lives, no matter how sinful they are. His intercession is our only hope, now and in the Judgement.

"The priest in the holy place, directing his prayer by faith to the mercy seat, which he could not see, represents the people of God directing their prayers to Christ before the mercy seat in the heavenly sanctuary. They cannot behold their Mediator with the natural eye, but with the eye of faith they see Christ before the mercy seat and direct their prayers to Him, and with assurance claim the benefits of His mediation."

E. G. W. (The Story of Redemption, cp. 19, p. 155)