Hebrews 10:1-18

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 10:1–18*** (ESV)  
**1** For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. **5** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,   
  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; **6** in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. **7** Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ”   
  
**8** When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), **9** then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. **10** And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.   
  
**11** And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. **15** And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, **16** “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” **17** then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” **18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

1. Give a brief review Chapter 9.
2. Considering Hebrews 10:1-4, if the Torah gave just a shadow to the people but never saved them, what was its purpose? Was it deficient in doing what it was supposed to do?
3. Did the Levitical priesthood (and specifically the high priest) fail to do their job for the people of Israel?  Why or why not?
4. Heb 10:1 says the Torah could never “make perfect” those who “draw near”. What is the literal meaning of the Greek word translated “make perfect”? And from your knowledge of Hebrew, what does the phrase “draw near” imply? How does this add to your understanding of this verse?
5. In Hebrews 10:2-3, what argument is the author trying to make?
6. How does the argument of Hebrews 10:2-3 complement Philippians 3:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:17?
7. In Heb. 10:5, the author is quoting Psalm 40.  Whose words are these in Psalm 40, and why does our author in Hebrews attribute them to Yeshua? Study Ps 40:6-13.
8. Why does YHWH not desire sacrifices and offerings? What *does* he desire?
9. **Extra credit:** Consider the last phrase of Hebrews 10:5 “but a body you have prepared for me”, which comes from the Septuagint. Now compare this to the corresponding phrase in Psalm 40:6, and see if you can come up with the literal translation of this phase from the Hebrew. In light of Exodus 21:2-6 and Deut 15:12-17, what does Psalm 40:6 mean? And how is that similar in meaning to the phrase used in Hebrews (and the Septuagint)?
10. What is the prophetic meaning of, “as it is written of me in the scroll of the book”?
11. In Heb. 10:9, the author says the “first” is done away in order to establish the “second”.  As we’ve seen before, “first” and “second” can potentially mean a few different things. What “first” is done away and what “second” is established?
12. Heb. 10:10 says, “by that will, we have been sanctified.”  What “will” is the author speaking of?
13. Based on the argument the author makes (Question #5), what does it look like for a believer to be sanctified through Yeshua’s one-time, permanent sacrifice?
14. In Heb. 10:11-12, there are six differences between the first priesthood and the second priesthood.  What are they?
15. In Heb. 10:14, the word “perfected” is our old Greek friend **teleioo**.  How can something be “perfect” yet still needs to be sanctified over time?
16. Hebrews 10:15-17 again quotes Jer 31:33-34, as he did in Hebrews 8. However, note that there is also a direct link to Psalm 40. What is that connection and why is it important?
17. In Heb 10:18, is the phrase “there is no longer any offering for sin” referring to Levitical sacrifices or to the fact that Yeshua’s offering was once and for all? What about the fact that there will be sin offerings on the future, as in Ezek 42:13? Why should this declaration (“where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin) be of great comfort to the audience receiving this message?