

**Hebrews 10:6-18**  
**“At the threshold of heaven”**

**I. Introduction**

**II. Vs. 5-18 Seven reason as to why Jesus sacrifice is successful**

**I. Introduction**

The fifth verse of chapter ten begins with a transition as we note the word “*therefore*”. The writer has just brought his readers to the truth that the first contract could never be successful in accomplishing what they were practicing. He had clearly stated it saying, “*these sacrifices, even though they are repeated continually year after year can never enable to approach!*” The repetitive nature of them didn’t increase the inevitability of success instead they proved two things: The Person who offered was hopeless ill and that prescription could never cure them. The writer went on to explain three ways that the shadowy prescription of animal sacrifices was unsuccessful as a “permanent treatment”:

- Vs. 1 ***They could not bring access to God***
- Vs. 2-3 ***They could not remove sin***
- Vs. 4 ***They only dealt with the symptoms of sin***

It is right after this that the writer introduces the “*therefore*” which is followed by a quote from Psalm 40:6-8 and the heavenly conversation between Jesus and the Father about the necessity of His incarnation and Jesus’ willingness to be the “Cure” for humanities hopeless condition. This is what God’s real design that the sacrificial system was only a shadow of. God was never interested in the rivers of blood that flowed from the altar.

God’s only interest in them was that they taught something, they pointed too:

- A. ***The necessity of a human body***: Not just any man but one in which the human will continually chose to depend upon God to obey His word! That is why the writer quotes from Psalm 40:6-8. Prior to the incarnation Jesus paused on the threshold of heaven, and said, “*A body You have prepared for me.*” There in the womb of the virgin named Mary a human body was being formed, a body with

nerves, muscles and sinews, hair, eyes and feet, growing through all the stages that the normal human embryo goes through. Within that body was a human soul with the capacity to reason, to feel and to choose. But in that human body was someone very different from every other human that had ever been in a womb. This human would never once act on His own, never once take a step apart from dependence upon the Father who dwelt within. Jesus said this in John 14:10 where He says, “*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*” This is what was needed to reconcile an unholy people to a holy God and why no animal sacrifice would ever work. Jesus followed the Word of God at every temptation, every problem He faced, He would go back to what God had said saying, “***It is written***”! And it was this obedience that led Him to the cross, where He laid down His life as the perfect and only sacrifice being the lamb of God who could take away the sin of the world.

It is from this that the writer gives his commentary on Psalm 40:6-8 and seven reasons as to why Jesus' sacrifice is successful!

## II. Vs. 5-18 Seven reasons as to why Jesus' sacrifice is successful

Vs. 5,7 **It completely reflected God's will**: The first and foremost reason why Jesus' sacrifice was successful; where the Levitical sacrifices were not, is found in the quote of Psalm 40:6-8 in verses 5-7. The point brought out in this quote is found in the words in verse 5, “*A body You prepared for Me*” and the words of verse 7, “*I have come --- to do Your will.*” What this combined phrase of Psalm 40:6-8 reveals is, that the number one reason why Jesus' sacrifice was successful was that **it completely reflected God's will!** It was God's plan all along, and as the quote indicates it was in the mind of God before the world was created! God knew that humanity confined in Adam and Eve would choose independence instead of relationship. And *God already knew that the first contract of Levitical shadows would never be effective if curing man's rebellion, they would only offer temporary masking of the symptoms.* So as we have just read from Psalm 40:6-8 God planned from the beginning that He would send His only begotten Son to come and die. So on the edge of heaven we have this conversation when it was time for the

incarnation where Jesus acknowledges that His own earthly body was to be sacrificed to be the cure for man's rebellion. This is further reflected over and over as we read Jesus' own words through our His earthly ministry that His purpose was to do His Father's will! Jesus sacrifice was successful because it was offered in perfect obedience to the will of the Father, **IT COULDN'T NOT BE EFFECTIVE!** This is why we noticed satan's attempt during Jesus temptation in the wilderness was to get Jesus deter from obeying the Father's will. Satan even tried using Jesus own disciples to accomplish this as Jesus had to rebuke Peter for suggesting that Jesus didn't need to go to the cross. From the beginning of His earthly ministry Jesus told His disciples that he had come to obey the Father's will and that meant that He would die upon the cross and be raised to life on the third day! They should have known that Jesus the messiah wasn't a martyr He was a willing and obedient sacrifice for the sin of the world! On the cross Jesus was saying what He had always said to the Father and to all of humanity, "*Father, I know that You never planned that the Levitical sacrifices would cure humanities rebellion, So I willing and gladly give My body to pay the price, to cure them from the cure of rebellion.*"

Vs. 8-9 **The sacrifice of Jesus replaces the shadow of the Levitical system:** Here the writer continues with the second of seven reasons that Jesus' sacrifice was a success with a commentary of the above Psalm 40:6-8. The point made in this section is found in the end of verse 9 where he writes, "*He takes away the first that He may establish the second.*" The point he makes is that the Levitical sacrifices could never and were never attended to be permanent as they were only temporary and symbolic. God's focus was always on the "**reality of the shadow**" and not on the shadow! The point is that **the sacrifice of Jesus replaces the shadow of the Levitical system!** You can not be under

two contracts at the same time when the second contract's design was to replace the first contract! Jesus death on the cross has come and it has replaced the Levitical system and God has forever set it aside!

Vs. 10 **It once for all “changed the believer”**: The third reason that Jesus sacrifice is successful we are told is that by it, “*we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” The writers point is that it is successful because it has **once for all “changed the believer”** as we are now set apart for our proper use! The Levitical sacrificial system had no way to change the person from unholy to holy. The Geek word used for sanctified is in a “*perfect participle*” with a “*finite verb*” which tells the reader in the strongest terms possible that the believer is in a permanent state of positional transformation. A literal translation would be, “*You have been made permanently made holy.*” This tells us that the writer is referring to positional sanctification and not practical sanctification. We are being changed from glory to glory degree by degree which is a reference to our practical sanctification but positionally we are standing before God forever in Christ Jesus! One act by Jesus, at one moment, provided permanent transformation. And our position will never be changed throughout all eternity.

Vs. 11-12 **It removes sin**: Jesus' sacrifice is the only thing that can “*effectively permanently remove SIN*”. **The Levitical sacrificial system could only temporarily relieve the symptoms but never cure the disease.** Through out this section the writer has offered four striking contrasts between the Levitical sacrificial system and Jesus' sacrifice of the cross:

- a. Many priest's verses One priest

- b. Continual activity of the old priests verses the sitting down finished work of the One priest.
- c. Repeated offerings the the priests verses the once-for-all sacrifice of the One priest
- d. Ineffective sacrifices of the priests that only covered sin verses the effective sacrifice of the One priest that removed sin.

The problem was not a lack of effort on behalf of the priest it was that they couldn't offer the right sacrifice! Jesus sat down after His sacrifice because it was and IS finished!

Vs. 13 **It destroys His enemies**: The fifth reason it is successful is found here in the 13<sup>th</sup> verse where we are told that we are “*waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*”

**Jesus sacrifice was even greater in that it went beyond defeating sin to defeating the enemy to our soul satan and his minions.** The Levitical sacrificial system did nothing to destroy the father of lies and literally it had no effect on him. But when Jesus died upon the cross, His death not only transformed us He conquered the devil who according to Hebrews 2:14 “had the power of death.” In Colossians 2:15 Paul wrote of this saying that Jesus, “*Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*” In Romans 8:37 we are told that “*we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*” Jesus forever conquered death and defeated the devil!

Vs. 14 **It perfects forever those who are being sanctified**: The sixth reason it is successful is that **Jesus sacrifice alone can perfect that which is practically still being made perfect.** Paul spoke of this encouraging truth in Philippians 1:6 saying that we could be “*confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will*

*complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*". The idea behind the word "*perfected*" is not to make spiritually mature but eternal salvation. As such we can rest in our security and not fear failure with regards to receiving forgiveness. Forgiveness is permanent because the sacrifice is permanent.

Vs. 15-17 **It fulfills the promise of the New Covenant**: The seventh and final reason it is successful is that **Jesus' sacrifice fulfills the promise made by Jeremiah in his prophecy in chapter 31:33-34**. The sacrifice of Jesus as stated in Jeremiah's prophecy was not a new concept and His sacrifice had to be accomplished in order for the terms of the will to be executed thus His sacrifice was the fulfillment of God's word. There was no escape from the writer's conclusion they could not accept Jeremiah's prophecy in 31:33-34 while rejecting the Jesus' sacrifice fulfilling that promise! To reject Jesus was to reject Jeremiah's prophecy and to do that was to reject the Holy Spirit who spoke through Jeremiah.

Vs. 18 The writer concludes with this statement: With the work of sacrifice finished in Jesus death upon the cross, with forgiveness permanently provided for by Jesus' finished work, satan destroyed, sin defeated, the Levitical system replaced, the believer transformed and God's will fulfilled. Why would anyone think that God wanted the religious Hebrew to go back to maintain the Levitical sacrifices? To reject Jesus finished work was to leave yourself without hope of salvation!