

In the Old Testament during Israel's desert wanderings, the Tabernacle was a portable sanctuary and dwelling place for the divine presence of God. This was a place where the Jews would worship God according to the requirements of the Old Covenant, the law.

"Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary." Hebrews 9:1

Eventually, the temple in Jerusalem, a more permanent and elaborate replica was built. Within each was an inner or second room called the Holy of Holies or the holiest of all. There was kept the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant which contained the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.

This was a very sacred place. It represented the dwelling place of God- heaven. This area was separated by a thick veil of fabric. It was a barrier between God and men, because of sinful man's separation from God. This was to make sure that no man could attempt to carelessly or irreverently enter into God's sinless presence. The veil of the temple was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide and four inches thick.

The Priests would enter into the first part of the tabernacle daily for the ordinary service, with gifts and offerings.

"...the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God." Hebrews 9:6

But, into the Holy of Holies, behind the veil went the High Priest alone, once a year.

"But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:" Hebrews 9:7

Before he entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he had to make meticulous preparations washing himself & putting on special clothing.

He burned incense allowing the smoke to cover his eyes from a direct view of God, and brought with him the blood of bulls and goats as an atonement for sin, first for himself and then for the people. This sacrifice of blood signified the sacrifice of a life for a life.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Leviticus 17:11

But the blood of bulls and goats was only a temporary covering that had to be repeated over and over. It could never take away sin.

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Hebrews 10:4

While the Old Testament was in effect, man's sin although covered temporarily by the blood of animals, kept him separated from God and so the presence of God remained shielded from man, by the veil.

When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, The veil was miraculously torn in two.

"the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;" Matthew 27:51

Why? Because Christ, as our Great High Priest made a new and better way to enter into the presence of God.

"By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; " Hebrews 10:20

Christ's flesh became the veil, our entrance into the dwelling place of God.

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." Ephesians 3:12

Jesus' sacrifice was not merely a temporary covering of sin, as was the blood of animals. Through faith in his one-time sacrifice of his blood upon the cross there is a complete remission (forgiveness) of sins forever.

"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." Hebrews 9:12

With Christ's once for all sacrifice on the cross, the Old Covenant of the law with its Priestly offerings and sacrifices has been done away with.

"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 8:13

There is no more offering for sin.

"Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." Hebrews 10:18

"For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:14

Christ as our great and final High Priest, being far superior to any other Priest, put an end to the Old Testament Priesthood.

-He did not need to offer sacrifice first for his own sins as the other priests, because he never sinned. *“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”* 1 Peter 2:22

-He did not need to offer sacrifices over and over. *“Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did ONCE, when he offered up himself.”* Hebrews 7:27

- He did not merely offer the blood of bulls and goats, but offered His own precious blood, the blood of the new and everlasting Covenant (Testament.)

-Because he lives forever, his is an everlasting Priesthood.

“For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” Hebrews 7:17

The Jews of Jesus' day despised and rejected him. They refused to acknowledge the New Covenant ordained with his blood, and even now continue holding to the Old Covenant system.

“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering ofentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:” Hebrews 10:11

Sadly, today there are many others continuing that same rejection of Christ in their attempts to seek God through their own Priests and ceremonies.

This amounts to not only the rejection of the New Covenant but also the disannulling of Christ's finished work on the cross, and his Priesthood, robbing him of the glory due to him.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” 1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus is the only way to God.

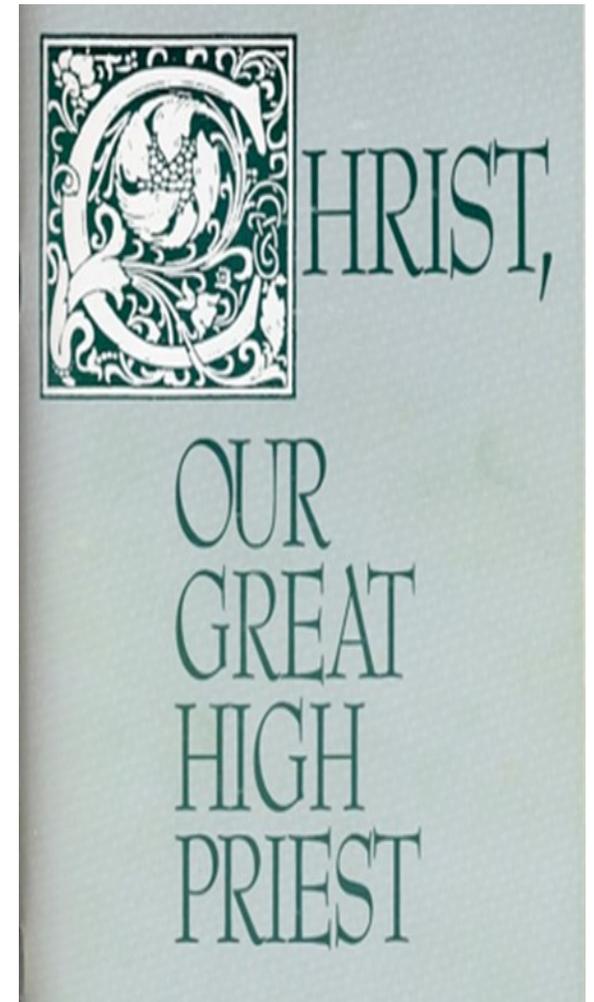
“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

Many of these claiming to recognize Jesus make a mockery of his finished work by crucifying him over and over in the “sacrifice” of their religious ceremonies.

For Christ died ONCE for sins, and now lives FOREVER. There is no need for him to be crucified again because his sacrifice was sufficient for all time.

“He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:28&29

All Scripture is Taken from the King James Version of the Bible



“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” Hebrews 4:14

