

Hebrews 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Analysis

Quoting Psalm 40:6-8 (LXX), Christ says to the Father: 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.' This reveals God's ultimate purpose - not endless animal sacrifices but the incarnation. The body prepared is Christ's human nature, fitted for obedience and sacrifice. Reformed Christology emphasizes the incarnation's necessity - Christ needed genuine humanity to obey as our representative and die as our substitute.

Historical Context

Psalm 40 originally expressed David's commitment to obedience over mere ritual. The apostolic interpretation sees David's words as ultimately Christ's, who perfectly fulfills what David only partially expressed. The LXX's 'body' (Hebrew: 'ears opened') fits the incarnational reading.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why did God prepare a body for Christ, and what does this teach about the purpose of the incarnation?
2. How does God's desire for obedience over sacrifice challenge mere religious performance in your life?

Interlinear Text

Διὸ	εἰσερχόμενος	εἰς	τὸν	κόσμον	λέγει	Θυσίαν	καὶ
Wherefore	when he cometh	into	G3588	the world	he saith	Sacrifice	and
G1352	G1525	G1519		G2889	G3004	G2378	G2532
προσφορὰν	οὐκ	ἠθέλησας	σῶμα	δὲ	κατηρτίσω	μοι·	
offering	not	thou wouldst	a body	but	hast thou prepared	me	
G4376	G3756	G2309	G4983	G1161	G2675	G3427	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:11 (Sacrifice): To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Hebrews 1:6 (Parallel theme): And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Hebrews 2:14 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 10:7 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Hebrews 10:10 (Sacrifice): By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Galatians 4:4 (Parallel theme): But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Hebrews 8:3 (Sacrifice): For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Jeremiah 6:20 (Sacrifice): To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

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