

Hebrews 8:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Analysis

Every high priest is appointed 'to offer both gifts and sacrifices,' therefore Christ 'also must have something to offer.' This establishes the necessity of Christ's sacrifice. A priest without an offering is no priest. Christ's offering is Himself (7:27), the only sacrifice sufficient to remove sin. Reformed substitutionary atonement sees Christ as both priest (offerer) and victim (offering), uniquely qualified to reconcile God and man.

Historical Context

The Levitical system's central feature was sacrifice. The author demonstrates Christ fulfills this pattern while transcending it - His sacrifice is superior in kind (Himself, not animals) and effect (eternal redemption, not temporary covering).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why was it necessary for Christ to offer a sacrifice, and why couldn't He simply forgive by decree?
2. How does Christ serving as both priest and sacrifice demonstrate God's love and justice?

Interlinear Text

πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς εἰς τὸ προσενέγκη δῶρά τε καὶ
every For high priest to offer gifts and also
G3956 G1063 G749 G1519 G3588 G4374 G1435 G5037 G2532

θυσίας καθίσταται· ὅθεν ἀναγκαῖον ἔχειν τι καὶ
sacrifices is ordained wherefore it is of necessity have somewhat also
G2378 G2525 G3606 G316 G2192 G5100 G2532

τοῦτον ὁ προσενέγκη
that this man to offer
G5126 G3739 G4374

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 5:1 (Sacrifice): For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Ephesians 5:2 (Sacrifice): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Hebrews 9:14 (Parallel theme): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 7:27 (Sacrifice): 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.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

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