

Hebrews 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Christ entered the Holy Place 'not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood.' This 'once' (Greek 'ephapax'—once for all time) secured 'eternal redemption.' The contrast is stark: animal blood versus Christ's blood, repeated sacrifices versus one final sacrifice, temporary covering versus eternal redemption. The Greek 'lytrosin' (redemption) means release by payment of ransom.

Historical Context

The Day of Atonement ritual required the high priest to enter with animal blood annually (Leviticus 16). This could never permanently remove sin. Christ's single, perfect sacrifice accomplished what endless animal sacrifices could not.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does eternal redemption mean for your security in Christ?
2. How does Christ's once-for-all sacrifice free you from fear that your sins are not fully paid for?

Interlinear Text

οὐδὲ διὰ αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων διὰ δὲ τοῦ
Neither by blood of goats and calves by but G3588
G3761 G1223 G129 G5131 G2532 G3448 G1223 G1161

ἰδίου αἵματος εἰσῆλθεν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἅγια
his own blood he entered in once into the holy place
G2398 G129 G1525 G2178 G1519 G3588 G39

αἰωνίαν λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος
eternal redemption having obtained
G166 G3085 G2147

Additional Cross-References

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

Hebrews 9:15 (Redemption): And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Ephesians 1:7 (Redemption): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 5:9 (Eternal Life): And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Revelation 1:5 (Blood): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Hebrews 10:19 (Blood): Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 7:27 (Parallel theme): 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 9:28 (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Leviticus 9:15 (Parallel theme): And he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which was the sin offering for the people, and slew it, and offered it for sin, as the first.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;