

Hebrews 9:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

Analysis

Even the first covenant 'was not dedicated without blood.' The Greek 'enkekainistai' (dedicated/inaugurated) indicates the initiatory ceremony that put the covenant into effect. Blood was essential from the beginning, demonstrating that covenant relationship with God requires death - either the covenant-breaker's death in judgment or a substitute's death in atonement. This establishes blood atonement as fundamental to God's covenant dealings.

Historical Context

Exodus 24:3-8 records Moses sprinkling blood at Sinai to ratify the covenant. This established the pattern that covenant-making involves blood sacrifice, finding ultimate fulfillment in Christ's blood shed to inaugurate the new covenant.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why is blood essential to covenant-making with God?

2. How does the old covenant's blood requirement point forward to Christ's blood?

Interlinear Text

ὅθεν	οὐδ'	ἡ	πρώτη	χωρὶς	αἵματος
Whereupon	neither	^{G3588}	the first	without	blood
G3606	G3761		G4413	G5565	G129

ἐγκεκαίνισται·

testament was dedicated

G1457

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