

# Hebrews 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

## Analysis

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The earthly 'copies of things in the heavens' needed purification with animal blood, but 'the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.' This raises a question: why do heavenly things need purification? Perhaps because sin occurred in heaven (Satan's fall), or because heaven is where God deals with sin (the heavenly temple where Christ's priesthood operates). The 'better sacrifices' (plural form, singular meaning) is Christ's one sacrifice, infinitely superior.

## Historical Context

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The earthly tabernacle was a 'copy and shadow' (8:5) of heavenly realities. Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary (8:1-2) required a sacrifice commensurate with that superior location - His own blood, not animals'.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean that Christ's sacrifice purifies 'heavenly things'?

2. How is Christ's one sacrifice better than the many animal sacrifices it replaced?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀνάγκη	οὖν	τὰ	μὲν	ὑποδείγματα	τῶν	ἐν
necessary	It was therefore	G3588	of things	that the patterns	G3588	in
G318	G3767		G3303	G5262		G1722
τοῖς	οὐρανοῖς	τούτοις	καθαρίζεσθαι	αὐτὰ	δὲ	τὰ
G3588	the heavens	with these	should be purified	themselves	but	G3588
	G3772	G5125	G2511	G846	G1161	
ἐπουράνια	κρείττοσιν	θυσίαις	παρὰ	ταύτας		
the heavenly things	with better	sacrifices	than	G3778		
G2032	G2909	G2378	G3844			

## Additional Cross-References

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

**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 9:24** (Parallel theme): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

**Hebrews 8:5** (Parallel theme): Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

**Revelation 5:9** (Parallel theme): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and

hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

**Colossians 2:17** (Parallel theme): Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

**Luke 24:46** (Parallel theme): And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

**Luke 24:26** (Parallel theme): Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?