

Hebrews 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Analysis

If Christ needed to suffer repeatedly, 'He would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world.' But instead, 'now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.' The phrase 'end of the ages' (Greek 'sunteleia tōn aiōnōn') indicates the culmination of redemptive history. Christ's appearance and sacrifice are eschatologically climactic - the decisive, unrepeatable event that deals with sin finally.

Historical Context

The 'end of the ages' doesn't mean the world's end but the arrival of the promised new covenant age. Christ's first coming inaugurated the last days (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), the age in which God's final redemption is accomplished.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that Christ appeared 'at the end of the ages,' and what does this teach about redemptive history?
2. How does Christ's sacrifice 'put away sin' in a way previous sacrifices never could?

Interlinear Text

ἐπεὶ	ἔδει	αὐτοῦ	πολλάκις	παθεῖν	ἀπὸ	καταβολῆς		
For then	must	he	often	have suffered	since	the foundation		
G1893	G1163	G846	G4178	G3958	G575	G2602		
κόσμου·	νῦν	δὲ	ἅπαξ	ἐπὶ	συντελείᾳ	τῶν	αἰώνων	εἰς
of the world	now	but	once	in	the end	G3588	of the world	to
G2889	G3568	G1161	G530	G1909	G4930		G165	G1519
ἀθέτησιν	ἁμαρτίας	διὰ	τῆς	θυσίας	αὐτοῦ	πεφανέρωται		
put away	sin	by	G3588	the sacrifice	he	hath he appeared		
G115	G266	G1223		G2378	G846	G5319		

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:12 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Peter 1:20 (Parallel theme): Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Matthew 25:34 (Parallel theme): Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

1 Peter 3:18 (Sin): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

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

Hebrews 7:27 (Sin): 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 9:14 (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 10:12 (Sin): But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

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