

Hebrews 9:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Christ 'was offered once to bear the sins of many.' The phrase echoes Isaiah 53:12 - He bore sin as substitute, enduring its penalty in our place. The 'many' indicates the elect, those for whom His sacrifice effectually atones. He 'will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation to those who eagerly wait for Him.' The second coming isn't to deal with sin again (that's finished) but to consummate salvation begun at His first coming. Reformed eschatology distinguishes Christ's two advents with different purposes.

Historical Context

The two-advent pattern fulfills the Day of Atonement type: the high priest entered the Most Holy Place (Christ's ascension), and the people waited for his emergence to know atonement was accepted (Christ's return). His reappearance confirms completed atonement.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's bearing the sins of 'many' (not all) relate to the effectiveness of His atonement?
2. What does it mean that Christ will appear 'apart from sin' at His return, and how should this affect how you live now?

Interlinear Text

οὗτως ὁ Χριστός ἅπαξ προσενεχθεὶς εἰς τὸ πολλῶν
So G3588 Christ was once offered to G3588 of many
G3779 G5547 G530 G4374 G1519 G4183

ἀνενεγκεῖν ἀμαρτίας ἐκ δευτέρου χωρὶς ἀμαρτίας
bear sin G1537 the second time without sin
G399 G266 G1208 G5565 G266

όφθήσεται τοῖς αὐτὸν ἀπεκδεχομένοις εἰς σωτηρίαν
shall he appear G3588 for him and unto them that look to salvation
G3700 G846 G553 G1519 G4991

Additional Cross-References

Titus 2:13 (Salvation): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 2:24 (Sin): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Romans 6:10 (Sin): For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Isaiah 25:9 (Salvation): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

2 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Romans 8:23 (Parallel theme): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

1 John 3:2 (Parallel theme): Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (Parallel theme): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Matthew 26:28 (Sin): For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.