

Jesus Christ's Appearances on Our Behalf

Text: Hebrews 9:23-28

Date: 10-6-24

I. Jesus Christ appears presently on our behalf (Heb. 9:23-24).

True and complete forgiveness must be dealt with, not through the earthly or external means but through the heavenly process.

Just as the high priest cleansed himself and the tabernacle on the Day of Atonement, so must believers first be cleansed and the heavenly location also be cleansed before coming into the presence of God. Worshipers can only be cleansed by Christ's blood and only then can they have complete access to God in drawing near to Him. We now can enter into His presence, not based on our deeds, but on Christ's righteousness and through His shed blood. When we come in this way, God sees Jesus Christ as He is and truly and fully sees His perfect Son.

Jesus Christ's death and His shed blood not only represent us on our behalf; His entering Himself opens the door for us to go into God's presence.

Jesus Christ's entrance sealed the deal for our joint-heirship before the Father.

II. Jesus Christ appeared in the past on our behalf (Heb. 9:25-26).

Jesus Christ shed His own blood and presented Himself to the Holy of Holies, ultimately fulfilling all of the Day of Atonement once and forever.

All was needed was Jesus Himself. And because He was the appropriate, perfect sacrifice, Jesus did not have to suffer *again and again since the foundation of the world*. This means that Jesus would have had to die for every sin committed over and over again.

Why did Jesus Christ appear in the past? To put away sin once and for all and to do it in and of Himself!! Our sin debt was paid at the cross. The penalty for sin was paid at the cross. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are set free at the cross.

III. Jesus Christ will appear in the future on our behalf (Heb. 9:27-28).

Yet, there is one more thing to be done. Just as the high priest came out of the Holy of Holies signifying that the blood atonement was done, Jesus Christ will emerge victorious in the future. He will appear again but not to redo the sin problem. Rather, Jesus Christ will come to fully and finally consummate our salvation. Every aspect of Christ's atonement will be fully realized.

Jesus Christ's entrance into the Heavenly Holy of Holies verifies and guarantees our complete glorification. This finalizes, so to speak, our proof of eternal life.

Just as the Israelites eagerly awaited the high priest to emerge from the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, we eagerly await Jesus Christ's second coming from the Heavenly sanctuary.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ appears today on our behalf in heaven (9:24) based on His appearing as the perfect sacrifice of Himself when He became our sinbearer (9:26). We patiently and expectantly wait for Jesus Christ to appear in the future whereby He will guarantee our eternal salvation forever.