

Hebrews 10:1-14

There are so many things going on right now to try and draw people away from their faith in Jesus. Some of them we might classify as great distractions. Have you heard about the pastors who have said they met with upper-level governmental officials because they wanted to warn the church at large to get ahead of a release of documents about UFO's and alienlike creatures? **They believe such information will cause many to lose their faith in believing we were created by God, I guess giving credit instead to some advance alien intelligence.**

- Which, BTW, was exactly what the famous atheist and evolutionary biologist floated as an idea in the 2008 film “Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed”, stating “It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, probably by some kind of Darwinian means, to a very, very high level of technology and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet. Now that is a possibility, and an intriguing possibility. And I suppose it's possible that you might find evidence for that if you look at the details of our chemistry, of molecular biology, you might find a signature of some sort of designer.” I believe the enemy sent his own to sew the idea for the future, which is now.
- And you see, he has to acknowledge a designer, but in no way can that designer be God. Because then he would be accountable to God. And so, aliens it is. And so many others, in their rebellion, will join him, and not because it's logical (for nothing comes from nothing, so where did they come from, are they eternal, have there been successors in their leaders, have those leaders ever changed the course of their civilization...think).

This is not new. For over 60 years the idea that the rapture of the church might be explained away as advanced alien beings removing those on earth who would not give way to the “new enlightenment” has been floated. And the bible warns of demonic spirits and Satan himself parading as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). So, as you see these things (if in fact we see anything at all), remember **God has told us of Himself, people, and angels and demons.** I would classify anything we are going to be given images of (which you can always trust of course), or exposure to, that is not of natural or technological origin, as demonic. And many would gladly follow them (1 Tim. 4:1) because it gives them a reason to keep up their denial of God (2 Thes. 2:9-12).

- I would think anyone who would go down that road would be very foolish indeed and have a very weak faith. Which, unfortunately, is the kind of faith many churches are fostering with their non-offending and lukewarm messages. It's going to backfire. **The bible does tell us in the last days there's going to be a great falling away** (2 Thes. 2:3). I wish I could say that great falling away just came from things like lizard creatures from outer space. But the bible tells us it will also come from offenses (Matt. 24:10-13). Which will cause people to betray one another **and to reject their faith** (a coming prime topic in this letter).
- This book of Hebrews really deals with that very subject. Fellow Jews who had not turned to Jesus were *offended* by the fact that some had, because by many turning to Jesus (without trying to be confrontational at all with those who had not) it meant by implication that Judaism was not the way to a restored relationship with God.
- Therefore, they were offended with Jesus and those who put their faith in Him. And we should acknowledge that those in the upper levels of Judaism had a self-prioritizing agenda to stand against Jesus, that they deceived so many into adopting, in order for them to keep their power over the people. Folks, this is almost always what's behind this opposition from those pushing alternative agendas. It's not legitimate concern for the people. It's propagandizing for personal interest, position, or control.

For those who refuse to follow where God was leading them, there is a lot of pushback by them. That's the way it has always been and is now. And **the bible tells us in the last days that is going to get infinitely worse, leading to this coming falling away.** To expect anything else would be unrealistic, because what the bible tells us has always (and I mean 100% of the time) shown itself to be true.

- That's why this book is so powerful for us, because it's telling us we're not alone in these very real confrontations for our faith. And **we can almost hear Paul speaking to us to continue in what we know to be true, even if others reject us, leave us, hate us, or persecute us** (even family [Matt. 10:21-22, 34-36]).
- The truth is still the truth, even if some don't want to accept it, nor us, because we won't turn from it. And that truth is the only way to the forgiveness of our sins and the entrance into eternal life with God.
- I want to tell you, as we enter into some incredible encouragement as to why we should keep the faith, that its very likely you are going to encounter a rise in difficult decisions due to your faith in Jesus. So

this letter, although written to Jewish believers in Jesus, should be speak very personally to you either in preparation for coming battles, and/or the ones you are already in.

So now let's jump into [Heb. Ch. 10](#) and see what encouragement and instruction we find there.

¹For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year: ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

In our study of this book, we have already covered so many of the aspects we find in these verses that I will not go back and repeat them all. But I will say **1**) there are things we can expand upon. **2**) As well as some realities not highlighted yet.

- The first one is an area we covered last week, and that is the old covenant didn't resolve sin, but rather continually rubbed your face in its reality. But the new covenant not only resolved sin, it washed us and our conscience white as snow ([Isa. 1:18](#), [Psa. 51:7](#))
- What that means for you and me is we must come to the reality that God does not desire us to live in the *shadow* of our sin anymore than He wants us to try to come to Him through the *shadow* of the old covenant, cast by the substance of it, which is **Jesus**. He is saying to us here, *come out from under the shadow of all of your past*.
- The bible tells us in the future we won't even remember our sins, or those of others. Listen to the promise of [Isa. 65:16-17](#), "*And he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My eyes. "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."* **1**) They won't be brought up by Him (He's already choosing to never recall them again), **2**) they won't be brought up by the enemy (because he will be eternally shut up and removed from us), **3**) and they will not be brought up by a single other angel or person in heaven because they won't be remembered to be brought up. One of the gifts Jesus brought with the New Covenant *was no more consciousness of sins*. So why are any of us still living under the shadow of them? Do you feel the life of Jesus was somehow insufficient to cover your debt, so you need to keep paying on the remainder of your account yourself? That's not reality in Him. Come out from the shadows and step into His light.

⁵ Therefore (since the blood of bulls and goats couldn't take away sin), *when He (Jesus) came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You (Father God) did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me (Jesus speaking). ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"*

These three verses are a record of a conversation between God the Father and God the Son in [Psalm 40:6-8](#). And in this case, God wants you to read His mail. You don't have that same invitation from many. Try and read your sibling or kids diary and you'll find out what I mean. For that matter there are few who will not find some level of offense if they catch you reading something that was not intended for you. But God is constantly inviting us in because instead of having something to hide, He wants to reveal it to us (He has always had an undefiled conscience and therefore has nothing to hide).

- And what we hear is God did not desire nor have pleasure in the sacrifice and offerings of the Old Covenant system. Now its not as if He despised the sacrifices because He is the one who instituted them. But the reason He instituted them is of utmost importance. They were not put into play to truly deal with sin, but rather to foretell of a time when He would institute His eternal plan to do so.
- And this can bring another one of those questions which should be coming up when we read our bibles (and I hope you understand God is not afraid of our questions, because He always has a perfect reason and answer for why He does what He does- even though He is not obligated to give us an answer). And one of those questions might be, "if the Old Covenant could not take away sin, and the New Testament in Jesus blood could and does, why didn't God just start by sending Jesus and spare the Israelites from such futility and loss"?
- And the answer is that God knows how stiff necked all of us can be (think aliens for a minute). So He had to prove many points to them (and us) over and over again. He had to paint pictures of **1**) the problem of our sin and rebellion, **2**) of His authority, **3**) holiness, **4**) righteousness, **5**) and truth, so that when He instated

the new will and testament in Jesus blood (the New Covenant), all the answers and examples would already be in place. **He did this for us, not himself.**

And in this conversation between God the Father and God the Son, we hear Jesus reveal this very truth and then go on to acknowledge what God would have pleasure in is sending God the Son into the world in a human body. Now of course this meant **1)** God could then say He understood our frailty, making Him so relatable to us in our humanity.

- And it meant **2)** mankind could now look upon their God and watch His interactions with them and others as He walked on the earth in human flesh. **3)** But the final fulfillment was that Jesus could offer up His own *body* for our sin. This is why it pleased the Father, because once you and I have been reconciled to the Father by the blood of Jesus, **we are forever reconciled.**
- Have you ever really looked forward to something that's coming? Or can you remember a time when you were waiting with great anticipation? Maybe for weeks, months, or even years? Well, God had been looking forward to this terrible and yet perfect day before time began in the natural world.
- And we know this because He has given us a recounting of it from the beginning. And that recounting also contains a countdown of some amazing events still to come. But the greatest focus (because nothing else matters if you don't deal with your sin forever) **was the coming of Jesus into the world.** And *in the volume of the book it is written* of Jesus, God's forever rescue plan. And He will be coming again because there is more in the book that has not yet occurred.

⁸ Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." (so he just repeated verses 5-7 to tell us the main point he is now going to make) *He takes away the first* (the Old Covenant is obsolete) *that He may establish the second* (the New Covenant). ¹⁰ *By that will* (the will of God) *we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

It was God's will that the system which could never release us from our sin *once for all*, would be replaced with a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That upon acceptance of Him, would transform and perfect us forever (verse 14).

- We don't likely use the word "sanctify" in too many places other than in our bible reading, so it's important to understand that when he says *we have been* (past tense) *sanctified*, he is saying the state of our separation unto God is finished. Because it's done already in the heavenlies where we are seated even now in Jesus (Eph. 2:6).
- And that is followed up with more emphatic language which tells us **1)** by which means this has occurred (by the offering of the *body* of Jesus), **2)** and of the permanence of this process. For when he says it is *once for all*, it should be noted this term is the most emphatic language the Greek can offer. It can be translated, "*He has perfected for all time*". You are eternally saved by the God who has set you apart.
- **1 John 1:7** says, "*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*" And this "*from all sin*" is in the present **continual tense.** Which takes us back to the reality that our sins, covered by the blood of Jesus (His literal death), speaks of past, present, and future. And he's not done making this point.

¹¹ *And every priest* (speaking of the Old Covenant, which was still being exercised at the time of this letter, even though God had replaced it with the new) *stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.* ¹² *But this Man* (Jesus), *after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever* (which was Himself), *sat down at the right hand of God* (because the work was finished with nothing left to be done), ¹³ *from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.* ¹⁴ *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.* Think about this, if our future sins were not forgiven by atonement for our sin, then would it not be impossible for us to be *perfected forever*? Because we know in reality, we would have been one sin away after salvation from a loss of that perfection. Wouldn't it be depressing if it read, "you are perfected **for the time being**". Because each of us would immediately know that was going to be short lived. But that's not what it says or means. Our sins past, present, and future have been covered with the shed blood of Jesus.

But folks, Jesus is now waiting before He comes and cleans this whole mess up. It's unfortunate that so many will perish eternally, but not one without a choice! And it's **the result** of the judgement that He desires, not the destruction of sinners. He tells Ezekiel to ask us a question that conveys this very truth, saying, "*Do I have any*

pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?” (Ezek. 18:23 [see also Ezek. 33:11]). He wants **all** to come to salvation through repentance.

- It’s actually the very reason the tribulation and this coming judgment have not occurred yet. **2 Pet. 3:9** says to us, “*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*” He is waiting (while suffering over watching what we can do to one another) because He is wanting even the vilest sinner to turn to Him and be received as a purified saint.
- And before we get out of **Ch. 10** God will come back to this very point. For in **verse 37** we will hear “*For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*”
- Folks, **the waiting is almost over.** If you are in Jesus that’s the best news ever. If not, it’s not. But it’s not the worst news either, because by means of you still being able to hear this message you are still able to choose to receive his free gift of salvation (**Rom. 5:1**).

But do catch this part also. When he notes the **enemies** of God, you should know that whoever has rejected this free gift of salvation, paid for with the life of Jesus, **is at enmity (war) with God** (**Rom. 8:7**). And when God the Father says He is going to make the enemies of Jesus **His footstool**, it’s not just speaking of their defeat, it also speaks of a placement of separation. But the means by which they get there is great white throne judgment.

- **Psa. 110:1-7** (where these verses of the enemies of God becoming Jesus’ footstool originate from) is often called “The announcement of the Messiah’s reign”. And these seven prophetic verses **1)** begin with this statement of a time when God the Father will make Jesus enemies His footstool, **2)** and then goes on to describe the judgement of the nations and the execution of the kings of the earth, **3)** which we know speaks of the end of the tribulation when the armies of the world come to battle each other, then see Jesus and unite to battle Him. **They lose and we win.**
- What’s interesting to me is this is the same Psalm in which we are told Jesus comes as High Priest under the order of Melchizedek (you had to be I the past studies to get that significance [**5:5-11, 6:19-7:28**]). So, as we’ve learned to expect, the more you study the bible, the more you find all the connection points that the casual reader would never get. Because in the volume of the book, it is written of Jesus.
- But there is one last point before we close. Earlier was heard we have been sanctified (it is finished), but here it clearly states we **are being sanctified**. That’s because there are three ways the bible speaks of our sanctification, **1)** the state of our being separated unto God (we covered that in **verse 10** and its already done), **2)** the act of our maturing in our faith as we grow to become more like Jesus (it’s often termed progressive sanctification because we should be progressing in this endeavor throughout our life [**2 Cor. 3:18, John 17:18-19, Phil. 2:12-13**]), and **3)** the day we finally make it home and our physical reality will match the spiritual reality that happened when we were born again. It’s often termed “glorification” (**1 John 3:2-3, 1 Thes. 5:23**).

Folks, there are always going to be distractions, deceptions, other gospels (which ae no gospel at all [**Gal. 1:6-7**]), offenses, pressures, and maybe even the suggestion that before it was goo to you, an alien race deposited that goo on the earth 😊. And people can search for “enlightenment” in contemplating their navel, going on a journey of self-discovery, or listening to whoever are claiming to be the experts today (contradicting the experts which came before them, before being contradicted by the experts who will come after). Or you could simply trust in the One who **1)** is the light illuminating the darkness, **2)** who has already purged our sins completely and eternally, **3)** who has taken the time to give you the written version of His plan, **4)** surrounded in miracles, **5)** prophecy, **6)** history, **7)** verifiability, **8)** and **the greatest hope sinful and fallen mankind could ever find.** But you can’t have both. It’s either Him or something else. And as the pressure keeps mounting, be found in Jesus. Don’t let anyone steal your faith in Him from you.