

3 REASONS WHY JESUS HAD TO DIE (HE.9:16-28)

1. A Testament Demands Death

(v.16-17)

¹⁶For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. (He.9:16-17)

- By the word “testament,” (*diathēkē*) we are referring to a legal will.
- The benefits and provisions of a will are only promises until the one who wrote the will dies.
- Just as a death is necessary in order for a will to take effect, so too was the death of Jesus necessary for us to receive His willed inheritance (He.9:16–17).

2. Forgiveness Demands Blood

(v.18-26)

¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD HAS COMMANDED YOU.” ²¹Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²²And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. ²³Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—²⁶He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (He.9:18-26)

- Biblical covenants have been ratified by blood (Ex.24:6-8; Mt.26:26-28).
- Christ needs to die because covenants are ratified or made sure by death.
- Christ not only had to shed His blood, but He had to die.
- So, “blood” and “body” ultimately refers to Christ's death (He.9:7,12,14,18,22).
- His atoning death, is the confirming sign of the new covenant as pictured by shed blood.

3. Judgment Demands a Substitute

(v.27-28)

²⁷And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (He.9:27-28)

- Just as certainly as we die once and then face judgment, so Jesus only had to die once (not repeatedly) to bear our sins.
- There is just one of two places for your sin:
 - Your sin is on you
 - Your sin is on Christ