

v23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. v24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. v25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. v26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. v27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, v28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:23-28

When I was growing up, I had a very good friend, Stuart, who lived two houses away from me. He was about a year younger than me, although age did not matter, because we were the only two English speaking boys of that age in a street of 15 Afrikaans boys. We did a lot of things together, and one of those things was to go to the Drive-Inn cinema about twice a month with his Granny, Mrs Easton, whenever she was babysitting him, when his parents went out. We saw all kinds of movies, sometimes those we chose, and at other times, movies she chose. I will never forget one movie she took us to see. In the midst of Apartheid South Africa, we went to see a movie called, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, based on the book by Harper Lee.

The basic storyline is a courtroom drama, involving a white Advocate called Atticus Finch, (played by Gregory Peck) defending a Negro man called Tom Robinson (played by Brock Peters) who is accused of raping a white girl, Mayella Ewell. It is set in the 1930's in Alabama, in the South of the USA. The image of a white man defending a black man was not something you saw a lot of in the late 1960's of South Africa. I am proud to say, that the only other white people I saw defending black people in South Africa at that time were my own parents. That image, of an Advocate defending an accused person left a lasting impression on my mind.

The only time I have had to appeared before a Magistrate was to plead my case to get a very high speeding fine reduced. On the day my father was diagnosed with cancer, my mother contacted me to come home for a family meeting. On my way home, I was driving way to fast and received a very big fine. About half a month's salary. I didn't have an Advocate, or ever a lawyer, to guide me, and let me tell you, I never forgot that experience either. It was nerve racking!!

NOW WHY AM I TELLING YOU THESE STORIES? The simple reason is this:

ONE DAY ALL OF US WILL STAND BEFORE A JUDGE.

AND YOU BETTER HAVE THE BEST ADVOCATE YOU CAN FIND.

FOR THIS JUDGE DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE ANY EVIDENCE PRESENTED BEFORE HIM.

THIS JUDGE ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER DONE!!!!

In this section, the writer of the Book of Hebrews, shows his audience that, whatever they were doing in trying to fulfil the Law of Moses was a failure, because their courtroom was only a sample of the real one to come. And because they, and us, still need to face the ultimate Judge, we better have the BEST ADVOCATE WE CAN FIND. I have given this message the following title:

REASONS WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED.

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

1. HE PLEADED/PLED our case IN THE HIGHEST COURT.

v24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

In our legal system there are four levels of Courts.

1. At the lowest levels you have District and Regional Magistrates Courts, The Small Claims Court and speciality Courts like the Divorce, Military, Labour and Electoral Courts.
2. At the next level you have the High Courts.
3. Above that you have the Appeal Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal.
4. At highest level of all is the Constitutional Court. This court is the Highest Office in the Land, to which even the Parliament must appeal.

THERE IS A COURT THAT IS HIGHER. IT IS SO MUCH HIGHER, IT ISN'T EVEN ON THIS EARTH.

AND IT IS IN THIS COURT THAT JESUS APPEAR ON OUR BEHALF!

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

2. HE ALONE HAS THE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER.

v25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. v26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world.

As we have already learned in our study of the book of Hebrews, the High Priest, and all the Priests, first had to offer a sacrifice to cleanse themselves from their own sin before they could do anything for anybody else. JESUS CAN ENTER BECAUSE HE ALONE IS QUALIFIED.

We read this verse back in

*Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, **but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.***

NOTHING UNHOLY CAN ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD. Therefore ONLY JESUS is qualified, for he alone is without sin.

We read this is

1 John 1:8 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

3. HE has ALREADY PLEADED/PLED our case .

*v26 ... **But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.***

Friends, we will all one day have to stand before our GOD and JUDGE.

Revelation 20:11-15 v11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. v12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. v13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. v14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. v15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Friends, WHY SHOULD WE NOT FEAR THIS OCCASION. The simple reason is found earlier in the Book of Revelation. We read in

*Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. **They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.***

Friends, **WHEN WE APPEAR**, it is to hear this word.

FORGIVEN!!!

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

4. HE has DESTROYED the POWER OF THE LAW.

*v26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. **But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.***

Notice that the word for SIN is singular and not plural. Most commentaries make the point that JESUS destroyed the PRINCIPLE of sin itself. The Apostle Paul in the Letter to the Romans makes the point that without the Law, we would not understand sin. For the Law points out when we are breaking the Law. AUTOBAHN in Germany. NO SPEED LIMIT

*Romans 4:13-15 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. v14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, v15 **because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.***

Notice also the phrase “**TO DO AWAY WITH**”. The Greek word used here is “Atethesis” and literally means “to abolish, or cancel”.

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

5. As our ADVOCATE HE has also PAID OUR PENALTY.

*v28 so Christ was **sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people**; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

The Greek word for the phrase “TO TAKE AWAY” is “Anaphero” and means “to carry a burden or to take up a burden”.

JESUS TAKES OUR BURDEN OF GUILT UPON HIMSELF

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

6. HE RESTORES WHY WE WERE CREATED

v28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

I think we all know Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 1984 he made a movie called “The Terminator” and it had a catchphrase “I’LL BE BACK”.

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER MADE IT FAMOUS
BUT JESUS SAID IT FIRST!!!!
“I’LL BE BACK”.**

And when JESUS comes back, he is coming to take us who believe to be with GOD FOREVER. God created us HIMSELF, and we will be with HIM FOREVER

JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

7. YOU BETTER HAVE ONE.

*v24 For Christ ... **appear for us in God's presence**. v27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

Jesus does not appear in Heaven for his own sake. HE DID SO FOR US.

THE PASSAGE IS CLEAR:

WE WILL ALL FACE JUDGEMENT!!!!

**JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL
EVER NEED BECAUSE:**

- 1. HE PLEADED/PLED our case IN THE HIGHEST COURT.**
- 2. HE ALONE HAS THE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER.**
- 3. HE has ALREADY PLEADED/PLED our case.**
- 4. HE has DESTROYED the POWER OF THE LAW.**
- 5. As our ADVOCATE HE has also PAID OUR PENALTY.**
- 6. HE RESTORES WHY WE WERE CREATED**
- 7. YOU BETTER HAVE ONE.**