

Belgic Confession, Article 21, “The Satisfaction of Christ for our Sins”

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 9:1-14

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, what the covenant of redemption is related to Christ's eternal priesthood. Second, what is entailed in the high priestly work of Christ. Third, what our response should be to Christ's work on our behalf.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 21 and Hebrews 9:1-14. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	What is the covenant of redemption? It is the agreement between the Father, giving the Son as Head and Redeemer of the elect, and the Son, voluntarily taking the place of those whom the Father had given him. What are some Scriptures, which speak of this covenant? Psalm 110 and Luke 22:29. Christ's priesthood is eternal; his priesthood stands in contrast to what temporary priesthood? The priesthood of Aaron. The Old Testament sacrificial system of this priesthood could not take away sins but Jesus' sacrifice to which this system pointed could. What is the nature of Christ's high priestly work? We describe the nature of this work as a “substitutionary atonement.” This means that when Jesus Christ died on the cross, he took on the eternal anger of God that belonged to us. Jesus was our substitute in this way and his shed blood proves that the Father is satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice to satisfy his justice. What are some key Scriptures that speak to the atoning work of Christ? Matthew 27:46; John 3:14,15, 10; Romans 3:15, Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:11-14, 22. What are faithful responses to Christ's work on our behalf? 1. “We know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). 2. “We count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus our Lord” (Philippians 3:8). 3. “We find comfort in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means of reconciliation with God than this only sacrifice, once offered, by which the believers are perfected for all times” (Belgic Confession, article 21).
Bible Reading	2 Samuel 18-24 (covering the great Bible stories)