



THE STORY Sermon Study Guide

Week 10: Jesus - Our High Priest & Perfect Atonement Sally Agostino

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Visit the [NewHope Teaching](#) page to find this week's sermon

When we think about the story of salvation, it's easy to centre our focus on the cross. The image of Jesus as the Lamb who was slain is deeply familiar and moving. But the process of atonement is much bigger and more beautiful than we often imagine. It's not just about sacrifice or death—it's about restoration, relationship, and a God who takes on every part of the process to bring His people back to Himself.

This week we reflect on Jesus' role in the story of atonement—from sacrifice to intercession—and consider the fullness of what Christ accomplished for us.

Read Leviticus 16:1-19 and 17:11

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the high priest would enter the Most Holy Place and offer the blood of an animal for the sins of the people. The Old Testament sacrificial system was a way of acknowledging guilt and seeking forgiveness, but at its heart, it was a profound picture of God's deep desire to restore relationship with His people.

Each offering was a tangible sign that the barrier between God and humanity could be mended. The sacrificial system allowed God's people to come close to Him despite their brokenness, but it was never meant to be the final word. The ritual points forward to a greater time to come, when the perfect and final atonement would be made.

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word *atonement*?
2. What stands out to you as you read about the Old Testament sacrificial system in Leviticus?



Read Hebrews 9:11-14 and 9:24-28

In the old covenant, the process of atonement involved many different parts—the animal, the blood, the priest, and the holy place. Each element played a role in repairing what was broken between humanity and God. But in Jesus, *all of these are brought together*.

He is the Lamb who was slain, the High Priest who offers the sacrifice, and the One who enters God’s presence on our behalf. He didn’t just perform part of the process, He *is* the process start to finish. He is the whole atonement story. Our forgiveness and reconciliation with God are completely His work, not ours.

Charles Spurgeon famously said, “Human nature’s way to salvation is *do, do, do*. But God’s way of salvation is *done, done, it is all done*.”

Human instinct often tells us we must do more, try harder, or prove ourselves to be accepted, but the message of atonement is that everything necessary for your salvation has already been accomplished. Instead of trying to add to Christ’s finished work, you are invited to receive the gift of grace with gratitude and humility, and rest in the sufficiency of Jesus.

He has done it all—“once for all by His own blood.” (Hebrews 9:12)

1. What strikes you about the idea that Jesus fulfills every role in the atonement story? What does this say about the completeness of what Christ has done for us?
2. Is there an area of your life where you are still trying to “earn” God’s favor or acceptance? How can you surrender that striving and trust that Jesus has already fulfilled every requirement for you?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 7:24-25

After His death and resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven and now serves as our advocate—continually interceding for us before the Father.

Christ’s role didn’t end at the cross or the empty tomb. He continues His priestly work, bringing our prayers, needs, and weaknesses before God with the compassion and understanding of one who knows what it is to face temptation and the pains of this world.



Our Saviour doesn't just forgive us once and move on; He walks with us every day, advocating, strengthening, and reminding us that grace still flows freely. Jesus is always at work on our behalf.

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus “interceded” on your behalf?
2. When you feel unworthy or anxious about your standing with God, how might remembering Jesus’ ongoing intercession change the way you approach Him in prayer today?

Closing Activity - Communion Together

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death *until He comes.*”

These words hold an amazing promise. The story of atonement isn’t over. It began in Eden, it was fulfilled at the cross, and it will reach its completion when Jesus returns to make all things new.

So as we live in this in-between time—between “*it is finished*” and “*until He comes*”—we do so with true purpose and deep hope, proclaiming: come, Lord Jesus, come!

1. How does living “until He comes” give purpose to your faith and discipleship today? How can this truth help us live with peace and confidence in a troubled world?

If your group setting allows, you may like to close the session by sharing communion together.

Suggested Closing Prayer

You might like to close with this prayer (adapted from the sermon’s conclusion):

Lord Jesus,
Your death we commemorate,
Your resurrection we confess,
Your presentation to the Father fills us with deep thanks.
Your final coming we await.
Glory be to You, O Christ —
our sacrifice, our high priest, our advocate, our King.
Amen.



Bible Reading Plan & Resources

As we engage in this sermon series and reflect on 'The Story' of God's redemptive pursuit of humanity, we invite you to practise the discipline of regular Bible reading. You may like to use the [NewHope Bible Reading Plan](#) which has been developed to accompany each sermon over the next 12-weeks. Get a physical copy at church, download a digital copy from our website or follow NewHope in the Bible App for daily updates.

There are also many other wonderful ways to engage with Scripture and you can find a collection of resources, such as books, apps, courses, and more at newhope.net.au/the-story.