

“Get The Picture?”  
Hebrews 1:1-10

Introduction:

1. Just About Everyone Can Recognize A Master-Piece!
    - An Outstanding Work Of Art Or Craft - Different Kinds - But Always Reveals The Character Of Its Creator!
    - Greatest Masterpiece Of Art:
      - The Ceiling Of The Sistine Chapel In The Vatican In Rome Painted From 1508-1512 By Michelangelo!
    - Greatest Masterpiece Of Architecture:
      - The Taj Mahal In India Built From 1632-1648 - A Mausoleum Designed & Built By Master Craftsmen!
    - Greatest Masterpiece Of Literature:
      - Romeo & Juliet Written In 1597 By William Shakespeare!
    - Greatest Masterpiece Of Automobiles:
      - The Duesenberg Built From 1913-1937 By The Duesenberg Brothers, Fred & August - Used By The Rich & Famous & Still Highly Sought After By Collectors - Get Our Phrase “That’s A Doozy” From This!
  2. But Master-Pieces Just Didn’t Come About!
    - It Took A Time Of Preparation!
      - Michelangelo Had His Sketches
      - The Taj Mahal Had Its Blue-Prints
      - Shakespeare Had His Rough-Drafts
      - The Duesenbergs Had Their Schematics
      - Only After This Preparation, Did They Start To Work On Their Master-Pieces Until They Were Finished!
    - Then There Was A Time Of Publishing Or Unveiling Their Great Work!
      - People Could See Their Master-Piece For The First Time, And Recognize The Genius Behind It!
  3. Hebrews 10:1-10 Reveals For Us A Greater Master-Piece – The Greatest Master-Piece Of All Time!
    - Not A Master-Piece Of Art, Architecture Or Even Literature – But A Master-Piece Of Religion – The Master-Piece Of Redemption!
      - A Master-Piece That Reveals The Character Of It’s Creator – God Himself!
    - And Like All Master-Pieces, This Master-Piece Of Redemption Is Worked Out In Stages!
      - There’s The Time Of Preparation!
      - There’s The Time Of Perfection!
      - There’s The Time Of Purpose!
    - But Unlike All Other Master-Pieces, This Master-Piece Was Not Done In Stages For Practice, Or Because Of Problems – Rather, This Master-Piece Was Done This Way By Design, So That We Can See The Glory & Majesty Of It’s Creator In A Greater Way!
    - Read Passage!
    - We Need To See The Whole Picture Of God’s Great Master-Piece Of Redemption!
1. Look At The Preparation For The Greatest Masterpiece!
    - The Old Testament & The Law Is Part Of God’s Great Master-Piece Of Redemption!
      - It Serves As The Time Of Preparation Of It!
        - The Sketch, The Frame, The Schematic
        - Michelangelo Had His Sketches
        - The “Shadow Of Good Things To Come!”
    - A Shadow Is Dark!
      - And So Was The Shadow Of The Old Testament!
      - It Shows The Darkness Of Man’s Heart & Soul!
      - 10:1 - “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the

things, can never with these sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect!”

- Discouraging!

- A Shadow Is Displeasing!

- Not Pleasing To The Eyes Or The Heart!

- When One Is Down & Depressed, Described As A Shadow! Psalm 23 - “The valley of the shadow of death!”

- It Shows The Displeasing & Ugly Character Of Man!

- 10:2-3 - “For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices is a remembrance again made of sins every year!”

- This Sacrificial “Assembly Line” Reminded Them & Us Constantly Of Our Sin & Guilt Before God!

- Unpleasant Memory!

- A Shadow Is Dim!

- The Outline Is Sometimes Fuzzy – Can’t Make Out The Image!

- It Shows The Dim Hope That Men Had!

- 10:4 - “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sin!”

- Whatever Hope They Had, It Could Not Be In Their Sacrifices – Because “It Is Not Possible!”

- But A Shadow Does Display A Glimpse Of Something Greater!

- Against This Dark, Displeasing, Dim Backdrop, The Old Testament Was “A Shadow Of Good Things To Come!” (See Hebrews 9:11 Too!)

- This Shadow Was But The Outline Into Which The Perfected, Finished Master-Piece Of God’s Redemption Would Be Placed!

- Perhaps The Old Testament Church Wondered, Seeing This Shadow, “What Can Wash Away My Sin?” – They Needed To See The Whole Picture! They Needed To See That It Is “Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus!”

\* And So We:

2. Look At The Perfection Of The Greatest Masterpiece!

- “Wherefore” - Like A Ray Of Light That Chases All Of The Shadows Away!

- “Wherefore When He Cometh!” (10:5)

- Who Is “He”? - Refers Us Back To 9:24 & 26 And The Past Appearance Of Jesus Christ, When He Literally & Physically Came Into This World – God Manifest In The Flesh!

- The New Testament And Christ Is The Perfection & Completion Of God’s Great Master-Piece Of Redemption!

- He Is The Fine, Colorful Brush-Strokes That Fills In The Outline Prepared By The Old Testament!

- Sometimes Great Masterpieces Are Unveiled!

- He Is “The Very Image Of The Things!”

- And His Image Is Bright!

- 10:5a - “Wherefore when He cometh into the world!”

- He Brightens That Which Was Dark!

- Ever Known Someone To Walk In A Room & Just Brighten Your Day? Sun Into The Office!

- Malachi 4:2 Refers To Christ As The “Sun Of Righteousness [Who Will] Arise With Healing In His Wings!”

- What Does He Heal? As Ron Hamilton Once Wrote & We Sing: “Lost In The Darkness I Stumbled Alone, Far From The Sunlight Of Day. Then Jesus Found Me And Made Me His Own; He Drove My Darkness Away!”

- He Is The “Bright And Morning Star!” (Revelation 22:16)

- He Is The “Everlasting Light!” (Isaiah 60:20)

- His Image Is Beautiful!

- 10:5b6 - “ He saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me! In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast no pleasure!”
- “ A Body Hast Thou Prepared Me!”
  - Would Not God Have Been More Beautiful And Glorious If He Had Come In His Own Nature? But Instead, He “ made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!” (Philippians 2:7-8)
- In Fact, The People Were Not Attracted To This Body That God The Father Prepared For His Son!
  - Isaiah 53:2 - “ For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him!”
  - But To Those Upon Whom His Light Has Shined, We Now See The Beauty & Glory & Majesty Of His Body – The Body That Was Broken & That He Sacrificed For Us!
- His Image Is Bold!
  - 10:7-9 - “ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) To do thy will, O God! Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offering and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said He, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second!”
  - Who Can Say What Christ Says Here?
    - “ I Come To Do Thy Will, O God!” (?)
    - Who Can Do What Christ Says Here?
  - But With Great Boldness, Jesus Christ The Son Of God Not Only Said This – He Performed This – He Accomplished God’s Will For Us!
    - He Finished The Picture – The Great Master-Piece Of God’s Redemptive Plan For Our Dark, Displeasing & Dim Souls!
    - Jesus Said: “ I do always those things that please him!” (John 8:29)
- His Image Is What Perfects And Completes The Greatest Master-Piece The World Will Ever See!
  - Do You “ Get The Picture?”

### 3. Look At The Purpose For The Greatest Masterpiece!

- Some Masterpieces Were Meant To Be Looked At, Admired & Enjoyed (Paintings)! Others Were Meant To Be Used (Building) And Repeated (Literature)!
  - Only 1 Master-Piece Had As Its Purpose To Include Those Who Receive It!
    - We Do Not Become An Owner Of The Master-Piece – We Are Included In The Master-Piece!
    - Norman Rockwell Would Frequently Paint Himself Into His Paintings To Identify That They Were His! Christ Puts His Spirit Into Us To Include Us In His Great Master-Piece & To Identify That We Are His!
- 10:10 - “ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all!”
  - The Purpose For This Great-Master-Piece Is So That We Might Be “ Sanctified Through The Offering Of The Body Of Jesus Christ!”
  - In Other Places In Hebrews, We Are Described As Needing “ Cleansing” – Katharizo - Many Times Used Outwardly!
  - In This Place, We Are Described As Being “ Sanctified” – Hagiazō - Holy - Here Used For A Permanent, Inward Cleansing From Sin & Guilty Conscience!
    - And This Is What We Need!
    - Hebrews 12:14 - “ Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!”

### Conclusion:

1. This Is The Picture Of The Great Masterpiece Of God’s Redemption!
  - The Old Testament Was Its Preparation!

- Christ Is Its Perfection!
- You Are Its Purpose!
- 2. Often We Only Look At Just A Part OfThe Picture!
  - And It's Usually The Part That Is The Shadow!
    - Where Its Dark, Displeasing & Dim!
  - We Need To See The Whole Picture OfGod's Great Master-Piece OfRedemption!
    - Because It Reveals The Greatness & The Glory OfThe Creator Himself!

Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com