

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

I. BLOOD MATTERS

- A. **Leviticus 17:10-14** *"Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.' Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'"*

When God forbade the consumption of blood, He did so on the basis that "the life of the flesh is in the blood" (11). That being so, blood is a very important thing to God and deserves our attention in study.

- B. **Genesis 4:3-5** *"Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to Jehovah. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And Jehovah respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering."*

God has always demanded bloody sacrifices. At the dawn of time, Abel presented to God an animal sacrifice and Cain made a fruit offering. The Lord respected and therefore accepted the sacrifice of blood, but rejected the other.

- C. **Exodus 12:3, 6-8, 12-13** *"Every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household... Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where*

they eat it... For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am Jehovah. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."

When God went through Egypt to avenge His people, the blood of lambs painted on their doorposts was their token of safety (7), because *"the blood shall be a sign"* (13).

- D. **Exodus 24:6-8** *"Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that Jehovah has said we will do, and be obedient.' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which Jehovah has made with you according to all these words.'"*

The Law of Moses was ratified by the pouring out of blood.

- E. **Hebrews 9:22** *"According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."*

Without bloodshed, salvation is impossible.

II. CHRIST'S BLOOD MATTERS

- A. **Hebrews 10:1-4** *"For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."*

The Law of Moses was one in which the blood of animals was shed in abundance, but not one drop could remove sin.

- B. Hebrews 9:6-15** *"Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience — concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."*

Christ's blood redeemed sinful man "once for all" (12).

- C. Hebrews 9:23-26** *"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. For 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; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high*

priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another —He 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.”

All the rituals in the offering of blood under the Mosaic Covenant were merely representations of what would be fulfilled under the New Covenant. We, at the end of the ages, enjoy Christ’s single, ultimate sacrifice.

- D. Ephesians 2:13** *“In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

His blood reconciles man to God!

- E. Ephesians 1:7** *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”*

His blood redeems!

- F. 1st Peter 1:18-19** *“You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

No other substance can procure remission!

- G. Revelation 5:9** *“They sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”*

His blood redeems universally!

III. How CHRIST’S BLOOD WORKS

- A. Hebrews 2:9** *“We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”*

Jesus shed His blood for all people. Are all people, then, automatically saved?

- B. Matthew 7:13-14** *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

Not all people will be saved, though. Therefore, we conclude that some action must be undertaken in order to make Christ's blood effective.

- C. John 19:33-34** *“When they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”*

Jesus' blood was shed in His death. So, one must come in contact with His death in order to reach the redeeming blood.

Romans 6:3-4 *“Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Only baptism can put one into contact with Christ's death.

- D. Acts 20:28** *“The church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

The realm in which the blood effectively cleanses is the Lord's church, for His blood was shed in order to purchase it. So, one must be in the church in order to benefit from the blood that was used to purchase it.

Ephesians 1:22-23 *“He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”*

The church is Christ's body.

1st Corinthians 12:13 *“By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”*

The body is entered into by baptism.

- E. 1st John 1:7** *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

Jesus' blood will continue to be effective for cleansing so long as we walk in the light, that is: so long as we remain faithful.

- F. **Revelation 7:13-14** *"One of the elders answered, saying to me, 'Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?' And I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' So he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'"*

Washing in Christ's blood means the heavenly reward!

CONCLUSION

- A. **Matthew 26:28** *"This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

Jesus' blood was shed for the remission of sins.

- B. **Acts 10:43** *"Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."*

Faith is required to activate that blood.

- C. **Acts 2:38** *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Baptism is required, as well.