

# *Blood*

*Lev 4:7*

**1**

7 ‘The priest shall also put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense which is before the Lord in the tent of meeting; and all the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

This is probably going to sound a little redundant or possibly one of those “Tell me something I don’t know” type of things, and while both of those statements are likely true, the point is just as valid when I say that throughout the scriptures blood **2** plays an important part in man’s relationship with and worship of God. The Hebrew writer says...

*Heb 9:21-22*

**3**

22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

From the time that Adam and Eve chose to disobey God in the Garden sin has separated man from his creator. That is exactly what James says in...

*James 1:15*

**4**

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Sin causes “Death,” death is separation, in the physical, that means separation of body and soul, in the spiritual it means separation of man from God. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, part of their punishment was to be cast out of the Garden, separated from God, so when God had told them that they would...

**5**

## *“Surely Die”*

When they ate of the forbidden fruit, they did. Through their eating of the fruit and subsequent casting out of the Garden, they no longer had access to the tree of life, without which their mortal bodies would die. Also, by being cast out, they were immediately separated from God’s presence, also dying. That is what we see in these passages from Hebrews and James. The penalty for sin is always death. That is a penalty that must be paid if man is to have the opportunity to live, eternally. As long as man has sin in his life he is dead in those sins. Paul makes that point in...

*Col 2:13*

**6**

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

So if man is to have the opportunity to be alive in this body as well as to live eternally something must be done about his sin and the penalty thereof. Those sins must be forgiven and the penalty paid. That is where blood comes in...

**7**

## ***"Without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness"***

God has decreed that it is through the shedding of blood that man can find atonement for his sins.

**1 John 1:7**

**8**

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

And also in...

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

**9**

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

The scriptures are absolutely clear that it is the blood of Christ that redeems, pays the price, for the sins of man puts us back into the light, a relationship with God through Christ.

But what does...

**10**

## ***"The Blood"***

mean in Scripture? It does carry with it various meanings as defined by the context in which it is used. In...

**Gen 9:6**

**11**

6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed,

Here it is obviously referring to the life of a man as illustrated by the blood coursing through his veins. In...

**Ex 7:17**

**12**

17 'Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood.

In this reference The Lord is telling Moses that the Nile will be turned into blood, the physical substance of blood. In...

**Ps 16:4**

**13**

4 The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

Here blood is being spoken of as an offering. Blood is the offering that, according to what we saw in 1 John and 1 Peter, can redeem man from his sin and pay the price demanded. You see, the only way that God could fulfil sentence of death He imposed for sin, and still be able to forgive man of that sin, was that Jesus Christ, His Son, came into the world, and offered his life, His blood, to pay that penalty. His life, because of the perfection of that life on Earth, and the majesty of His

nature as God, was so vast in its value, that he could give it not only for one man, but for the whole multitude of men that might come to believe in Him.

All the sacrifices under the law, when their blood was poured out, were shadows of the life of Christ that He gave while on the cross, a life that was given for all men as a sacrifice to pay the price for their sin. The concept of being returned into a covenant relationship with God, being made whole with the creator, is the idea of atonement. Interestingly, the word atonement is not found in the New Testament in the NASV, though in Romans 5:11 the KJV does use the term. The NASV uses reconciliation. The idea is to make whole, reunite. That is what is seen in the sacrifice that Jesus offered. It is only through His sacrifice that man can be made whole, reunited with God.

So there are some thoughts about this idea of atonement that I would like to look at in the remainder of our time...

- 14**
- 1) Atonement has as its focus The Lord
  - 2) Atonement empowers the worshipper
  - 3) The Atoning blood makes worship acceptable

This first thought is of paramount importance...

- 15**
- 1) Atonement has as its focus The Lord

If the Lord is not the ultimate goal of reconciliation, then who or what would be? What would be the point? If the goal isn't to be made one with God there is no point to any of this. Worship becomes vain.

**1 Cor 15:13-14**

**16**

**13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

That's the point Paul is making. If there is no God, if Christ didn't die for man, if the Word is nothing more than a glorious work of fiction, what is there to believe in? God, our relationship with Him, must be the focus of our faith and obedience or there really isn't any reason for any of it.

**2 Cor 5:18-19**

**17**

**18** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them

The whole purpose of Christ coming and offering Himself for man is so that man could have avenue by which he could be reconciled with God. Christ, His blood, is the atonement that gives man that opportunity. There is an interesting but absolutely erroneous thought that reconciliation is a one-way street. That it brings man closer to God but not God closer to man. That just isn't the case. While true that reconciliation through Christ's blood most assuredly brings man closer to God, don't forget that it was accomplished by God living as a man on the Earth, Jn. 1:1-4. Man can draw near to His God, but only because God drew near to man.

*James 4:8*

**18**

**8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

In the 24 chapters of the book of Leviticus the phrase

**19**

***“Before The Lord”***

is used 61 times in both the NASV as well as the KJV, according to Strong's. The bringing of the ram or lamb or dove as a sacrifice, the killing of that sacrifice, the sprinkling of the blood, all of this was to be done "before the Lord." You see, it didn't matter if anyone else saw it or not, it was "before the Lord." And yes, there were probably many others who may have witnessed it, but it was not their witnessing that gave significance to the sacrifice, it was because it was done "before the Lord." We are not saved from our sin because others witnessed our obedience. We are not justified before God because anyone special baptized us, we are reconciled through the atoning blood of Christ when we present ourselves "Before the Lord" in faithful obedience to His Word. The second thought we will be looking at speaks to this idea somewhat...

**20**

**2)** Atonement empowers the worshipper

What does being in a right relationship with God have to do with our worship of Him?

*John 9:31*

**21**

**31** We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

Our worship is to go before God as a sweet smelling savor to Him, but if we are not in a right relationship with Him, if we have not been saved, then our worship is not heard. Atonement, reconciliation, is that which brings us into a right relationship with our Father, and it is being in a right relationship with God that empowers, makes valid, our worship of Him. In a quote from Ps. 34:15, Peter says in...

*1 Peter 3:12*

**22**

**12** "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

It is the blood of Christ that turns the eyes of the Father towards the faithful. It is the blood of Christ that He sprinkled before the throne of God that redeems man from his sin.

*Heb 10:19-20*

**23**

**19** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

The book of Hebrews is the treatise that is given that illustrates the final demise, the culmination of the Law of Moses. It shows how the articles of the worship of that Old Law were shadows of what was to be under the New. It shows how the things of the New have replaced those

of the Old. It describes Christ as the sacrificial lamb that could accomplish what the Old could not, the remission of sin.

**Heb 2:14-15**

**24**

**14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Christ became man, a little lower than the angels in order to accomplish the purpose for which He had been sent, to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men. That brings us to our last point...

**25**

3) The Atoning blood makes worship acceptable

We bring to God sweet incense; through Jesus Christ our Savior, our prayers, our praises, our services, these are a part of the worship we bring to God. The other part is found in the lives that live. But it is the blood of Christ on the altar before the throne that makes the incense acceptable. It is the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ that gives our prayer, praise, and service acceptance in the sight of God.

Think about the sacrifices of Old. It was their sacrifices that gave ear before God. It was the blood on the altar that gave acceptance to the incense that was burnt on the altar. It wasn't the perfumed sweet spices with pure frankincense that did that. What does this teach us? God accepts us in Christ because of Christ Himself, and Christ alone. It is true that we are to bring forth good works; for faith without works is dead. Still, the reason of our acceptance with God is not our good works, but Christ, and his atoning sacrifice alone.

**Eph 2:8-10**

**26**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Now, here is what is interesting, it isn't our good works that justifies us before God, it is the blood of Christ that we access through faithful obedience, but God still demands from us good works. That's what Paul is saying here.

**27**

Now we come to the real impact of this discussion. Are you a good person? Do you have a relationship with God? What is that relationship based on? If it isn't based on faithful obedience to the truth of the Word of God through the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then our good works, our being a "Good Person" isn't enough, any more than it was for those in Matt. 7 and Luke 13.