

## WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?

The word blood in the Bible is used in several senses. Sometimes it has a literal meaning other times it is used as a figure of speech. Blood can also be symbolic of life or death.

We read that in the OT the only way people could have their sins forgiven by God was to sacrifice an animal and, therefore, blood had to be shed.

### **How did this happen?**

The wonderful plan God had for the first humans Adam and Eve came to a halt because of one very serious offence. As a consequence, death was passed on to all men.

### **Romans 5:12**

**When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.**

In order to meet the requirements of God, He determined that the blood of an animal had to be shed.

The sacrificing of animals can be very hard for us to understand in our modern day and it may sound like an awful thing to do. We must adjust our thinking to the world view of the "BC" times of the Old Testament and also understand how it was done and why it was done.

It had nothing to do with the occultic sacrifices offered to the gods among pagan cultures in the ancient world in order to appease the gods.

### **Why Blood?**

### **Leviticus 17:11**

**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.'**

I must point out that sacrificing animals in the ancient world was similar to killing animals today for food. Most of the animals that were sacrificed were later eaten by the Levites.

A system of atonement was put in place for the people of God.

For instance, in the Day of atonement, which was an annual event, the High Priest would go to the Holy of Holies, the most sacred place in the temple. He would offer a sacrifice for his sins and the sins of all the people.

However, their sins could not be taken away, they were simply covered, and year after year sacrifices had to be made.

The sacrificial system was all symbolic of God's mercy and grace.

The entirety of the Old Testament, every book, points to the Great eternal Sacrifice that was to come – Jesus Christ. The old sacrificial system was a shadow and type of what was going to happen in the future.

Jesus was God's Lamb. He was the One carrying the special kind of blood, not like the blood of bulls and goats! Blood that was not of this world, it was God's own blood!

#### **John 1:29**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

#### **Hebrews 9:24-26**

**24** 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; **25** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— **26** 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.

When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood He went into the Holy of Holies in Heaven, with His own blood to secure a complete redemption for us all, once and for all.

#### **WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?**

##### **1. Redemption is in the blood.**

Jesus' blood put an end to the old system. Our sins were not simply temporarily covered but permanently washed away.

#### **Colossians 2:14**

**14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Jesus' sacrifice will not do us any good if we do not believe in it. If we are going around feeling always condemned, guilty and carrying shame. The price has been already paid, receive His mercy and His love, and say 'thank you, Father, that I am redeemed, thank you that I am forgiven'.

The accuser, the devil will do the opposite. He will say: Are you sure that God has forgiven you?

Keep walking with Jesus and living a life that will bring glory to God and stop looking into your past.

#### **WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?**

##### **2. A voice is in the blood.**

#### **Genesis 4:9-10**

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

**And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.**

There was no one speaking for Abel, but his blood became his own lawyer. Cain thought that he had the last word, but he didn’t realise that the blood speaks.

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, it looked like His enemies had finally finished Him off. When Satan and his cohorts saw Jesus on the cross, His blood dripping onto the ground, perhaps they thought they had finally gotten rid of him.

What they didn’t realise is that 2000 years later His blood would still be speaking! They crucified His body, but they couldn’t stop His blood from speaking.

**Hebrews 12:24**

**to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.**

When we need mercy His blood still speaks. When we are sick His blood still says “by My stripes you were healed”.

**WHAT ELSE IS IN THE BLOOD?**

**3. Protection is in the blood.**

For hundreds of years, the Israelites were in slavery. God sent plague after plague on the people that were holding them in slavery (The Egyptians), but Pharaoh wouldn’t change his mind. The last plague was going to be devastating. The firstborn male of all their captors was going to be killed during the night.

But God gave the Israelites special instructions on how to be protected from this plague. Each man was to take a lamb for his family. They were to put some of the blood on the top of their door and some on the side of the door frame.

God said:

**Exodus 12:13**

**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.**

At midnight when the death angel came through the land, wherever he saw the blood he passed over. The people of God were protected.

We live in a fallen world and sometimes bad things happen. But we are not defenceless and alone. There is protection in the blood of Jesus.

**Psalms 34:19**

**Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

## **WHAT'S IN THE BLOOD?**

### **4. Power and authority are in the blood.**

#### **Colossians 2:15**

**15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

#### **Matthew 28:18**

**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

**Jesus delegated His authority to us, the believers.**

#### **Luke 10:19**

**19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

#### **In Revelation 12:11**

**11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

**The blood has not lost its power!**