

LIFEBLOOD
Power in the Blood
Leviticus 17:11

July 15, 2018 PM

HDBC

What comes to mind when you hear the word blood? Blood has gotten a bad reputation in past 20 years. Partly due to Hollywood. List of movie titles:

Blood Money,
Blood of the Dragon,
Blood of Heroes,
Blood Red,
Blood Relatives,
Blood Ties,
Blood Fight,
Blood Vows,
Blood Fist I and II,
Blood Match,
Blood Games,
The Blood of Others,
Brain of Blood,
Bloody Moon,
Bloody Birthdays,
Blood Stalker,
Blood Spell,
Blood Screams,
Blood Beach,

All the zombie movies and TV shows

No wonder **blood has gotten a bad reputation** in our society. . Hollywood seems to be obsessed with blood. Long before Hollywood's obsession blood was an important theme in the most important book. It is a central theme of the Bible.

The Bible is a book about blood. When evangelicals are accused of preaching a gospel of blood, we heartily plead guilty as charged. For the blood of Jesus is the only thing that gives our preaching and our message life and power.

This Bible I hold in my hand is a living book, and coursing through its veins are hundreds of references to blood. In fact there are over 700 references to blood. Gen. 4:10 - Rev. 19:13. If you were to cut out all references to blood you would cut the heart out of this book and render it powerless.

Begin a series tonight called ***Lifeblood***.

If it is mentioned that many times, it must be important. The fundamental reason the blood is important is found in Leviticus 17:11. **The life is in the blood.** That is why murder is condemned, and eating or drinking blood is forbidden. So, tonight, I want us to focus on **the Power in the Blood**

1. The Chemistry of the Blood

You can live without a hand, leg, foot, eye, ear. But you cannot live without blood. Human body contains many kinds of **tissues**; muscle, nerve, fat, glands, bone, connective tissues, etc. All have one thing in common; they are fixed cells. Have a specific and limited function. The blood on the other hand is not fixed. It roams the entire body. It supplies those tissues with life-giving nutrients, and carries off all the contaminated waste.

In normal body there are 5 quarts. It circulates through the body keeping cells supplied and cleansed. Once the blood fails to reach a part of the body, the cells in that part begin to die. When the blood ceases to circulate throughout the body, you may be sure that person is dying. **The life is in the blood.**

A. Red Blood Cells

Red blood cells are disc-shaped cells that carry oxygen to the cells of the body and carry waste (carbon dioxide) away from the cells to the lungs, bowels, skin, and kidneys for disposal. **Imagine same truck delivering lunch and picking up trash, without mixing the two.**

B. White Blood Cells

There are many varieties. Primarily involved with the defense of the body. Fewer of these than the red, until the body is attacked. Infection or injury the body immediately mass-produces these and they are rushed to the scene. There they literally swallow up the infection and die. These then become the pus that oozes from wound.

So, the life is in the blood. Life is sustained through the red blood cells and protected through the white blood cells. That is the way God made Adam and Eve. **No wonder David said, I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

But Adam and Eve did not live forever. Something happened to contaminate their blood. They sinned against God and began to die physically. The life that was in their blood was no longer a life that could last forever. Speak to you for a moment about the **contamination of the blood.**

2. The Contamination of the Blood

All people are related by the blood of Adam.

Acts 17:26 **And he made from one (man) every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.**

All people have a common origin in Adam. The word *man* is not part of the original text. The Greek simply says **from one . . .** Translators have inserted **man**, and rightly so. Interesting that KJV inserts the word **blood**.

All of us are relatives, because we share the blood of Adam. All of our blood has a common source, Adam. And his blood was contaminated by sin and carries the sentence of death. For this reason all people will die.

When Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil his blood was poisoned. So potent was this poison that thousands of years later everyone who has received that blood dies. And everyone born of flesh receives this blood.

That is why the virgin birth was a necessity. Jesus had earthly mother, but no earthly father, and therefore did not receive the blood of Adam.

3. **The Cure for the Blood (1 Peter 1:18-19)**

The cure for *bad blood* is a transfusion with the blood of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19.

When Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* was released in Italy, the review board gave it a "G" rating. Some parents objected, saying the movie was too violent for children to watch. But the reaction of Italian author Riccardo Zucconi, quoted in *USA Today*, said more about theology than parenting. He refused to allow his children to see the film, in his words, ***because I want them to have this idea of the spirituality of Christ, not this idea of debauchery. The soul of Jesus is important, not his body.***

The writer preferred to have his son watch a 30-year-old film, *The Gospel According to Matthew*. ***That film is very deep***, he said, ***and you don't see a drop of blood.***

Zucconi planned to see the movie himself, however, "I think sometimes I will shut my eyes to preserve myself from all this blood," he said.

This reaction says much about the modern response to the Crucifixion: **People want the spirit of Jesus, without the Incarnation; the death without the pain; the sacrifice without the blood.** But without the body, the pain, and the blood, the Crucifixion is meaningless.

Sacrifice cannot be sanitized. Sacrifice has always been bloody.

As human blood is the life of the physical, so the blood of Christ is the life for the spirit. Nothing less than a total transfusion will do.

Blood banks are a marvelous thing. Storehouse of blood taken from healthy persons to be used by others who are sick. Wonderful!

More wonderful is the fact that a deposit was made in the blood bank in Heaven 2,000 years ago. It was laid aside to be used by individuals whose blood was contaminated by sin. Each time a person trusts Christ, it is that blood which is used to make them whole and well. It suits every type

What healthy blood does for the human body, Jesus does for the spirit. As the red blood cells carry life-giving oxygen to the parts of the body, so Jesus brings life to you. As the white blood cells defend the body against attacks from enemies, so Jesus protects the believer from the attacks of Satan.

No wonder the song writer was inspired to write:

***There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel=s veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains.***