

LIFEBLOOD
Covering of the Blood
Exodus 12:1-13

July 22, 2018 PM

HDBC

Second in a series of messages that I am calling Lifeblood. It is a three-part look at the blood of Jesus Christ and what it means for us. Looked first at the ***Power in the Blood***. Tonight ***Covering of the Blood***. Back to our theme verse, **Leviticus 17:11**.

For the Life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.

We not only learn that the life is in the blood, but also that it is the blood that makes atonement for us. Word is used twice in the verse.

Atonement

English word has behind it that which signifies a **harmonious relationship** or **that which brings about such a relationship**.

It is a Hebrew word that is rich with meaning. To cover or to wipe away. It is used to describe the effects of the blood sacrifice on the sins of people. The blood provides a covering for the sins so that the person does not receive the just punishment for them.

The OT provides many pictures of how blood provides a covering or atonement for God's people. Taken together, these make up a ***scarlet thread of redemption*** that can be traced throughout the bible.

First of these is found in Genesis 4. There we find Adam and Eve hiding from God and trying to cover their nakedness with fig leaves. When God found them he took

an innocent animal, and killed it. He then made coverings for their naked bodies from the skin of the animal. As Adam and Eve saw the dead body of that innocent animal and the crimson blood stains on the ground they got a glimpse of just how much God loved them. This was the beginning of this *scarlet thread*.

Another part of the thread found in Ex. 12. **Some Background:**

Just before the exodus. Atmosphere charged with excitement. Sense of expectation in the air. **Two great things about to happen.** 1) Israel is about to become a nation. 2) Millions born into slavery are about to taste freedom for the first time ever. God has raised up Moses, and Aaron as his spokesmen. 9 plagues have come to Egyptians, but Pharaoh has hardened his heart. Now God is ready to break the stiff neck of this pagan ruler.

God's final plague would be the death of the first-born of all the land. Rich, poor. Good and bad. Powerful and weak. And how would God protect his people from this plague? He would use a little, weak, meek lamb. The one animal that stands for peace and tranquility. No fangs, claws.

Lamb that seems to say, *take me and use me. If you are hungry, eat me. If you are cold, take my wool.* God would use this little animal to deliver his people not only from death, but from slavery.

But something had to happen to the lamb. **Its blood had to be shed!**

1. Selected Lamb

A. **Specific Day (3)** 10th day of the month.

All the lambs were to be chosen at the same time. Unity in the soon to be freed nation. Not only providing deliverance, but instituting a new celebration that would be called the Passover.

B. **Specific Character (5)**

Without blemish - Word speaks of that which is *sound, complete, whole,*

unimpaired. Later generations took as many as four days to examine the lambs to be used for the Passover. Even examined the eyelids.

Reminds me of Jesus, whom John the Baptist called ***the Lamb of God***. He too was unblemished. Examined by the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, Herod, and Pilate, and none could find anything to condemn him for.

C. Specific Gender (5)

Why a male? Understand that this lamb is a type, or picture of another who was to come later. Type for the Lord Jesus, who was very much male.

D. Specific Age (5)

One year old lamb has reached maturity.

2. Sacrificial Lamb

A. Killed (6)

1. Day - 14th day.

2. Time - Twilight

Time when the sun begins to set. 3-5 p.m. Dad would take the lamb and mercifully and almost painlessly kill the lamb. He would catch the blood of the lamb in a basin to be used later that night.

Again we must look to Jesus. His death came during the time of the Passover. All over the city little lambs were being killed and eaten.

At the time of the year when those Passover lambs were being killed, the Lamb of God was being killed. He was led out of Jerusalem in the morning, crucified at 9:00 A.M. but died at 3:00 P.M. Twilight. He died for our sins.

A distressed father sat at the bedside of his comatose son, hurt playing basketball. At a crucial point in the game, the 16-year-old lunged for an

errant pass going out of bounds. As he toppled over a spectator's chair, one of its legs caught him in the stomach and damaged vital organs.

Because he felt little pain, the teen continued to play the game's final minutes while he hemorrhaged internally. By the time the pain grew enough to warrant a trip to the hospital, it was almost too late. The doctors worked frantically to save him, but the outcome was uncertain.

Though the son eventually recovered, those awful hours of waiting for the slightest signs of recovery forced family members to ask questions they'd never before faced. The father was alone on his bedside shift one evening when the pastor visited.

Trembling with emotion, the father asked, "Will God kill my son to punish my sin?" "No," said the young minister, searching for words that would comfort and grant renewed trust in the God this father now so desperately needed.

The Lord's not punishing *your* son for your sin. He couldn't, because God punished *his* son for your sin.

B. **Eaten (8-11)**

Take the body of the animal and prepare it for a meal. 1/4 million barbecued lambs. Imagine the smell over the land and Egyptians wondering what was happening.

Side dishes. Bitter herbs to remind them of the bitter years of slavery that were about to end. Unleavened bread to represent the haste with which they were about to leave and moral purity.

Jesus said unless we eat His flesh would could not abide in Him. Not teaching cannibalism, but saying we can only be saved if we personally receive Jesus into our lives. He does us no good as long as He is on the outside. It only makes a difference if He is on the inside.

3. Saving Lamb (7, 12-13, 22)

Notice what they were to do with the blood. What they did with the meat was secondary to what they did with the blood. If they failed to handle the blood correctly it would not matter if they got all the other things correctly. **Notice.** . .

A. The Process for Applying the Blood

Hyssop (22) - Common plant in that area. Easily accessible. 12 references to it in the Bible. Used in the process of making atonement. It was the medium that the priest used to sprinkle the blood for atonement. It was also used by those who offered wine to Jesus when He was on the cross.

Significance of hyssop? Practical use. Sprinkle the blood, much like paint brush. But I think there is more. I believe it is a symbol of faith.

Just as the hyssop was used to apply the blood, faith is used to appropriate the new birth into a person's life.

David prays in Ps. 51 that the Lord would **purify him with hyssop**. **It is only through faith** that we can be purified.

B. The Placement of the Blood

To enter into the safety of the house they had to pass under the blood. Notice that none was placed on the floor. Not to be trampled.

C. The Power of the Blood

At midnight, death entered the homes of the Egyptians. Even the firstborn of Pharaoh. They believed Pharaoh was a god. His firstborn was heir to the throne, and also thought to be a god. The Lord is destroying their idols.

All throughout the land of Egypt the cries of grief could be heard from house to house. It was a terrible night. But in the land of Goshen where the people of Israel were there was an unusual sight. On the door posts and lintel of each door could be seen blood stains.

And where the blood could be seen there was a strange silence in the house. Kids were sleeping peacefully and the parents were quietly preparing for a journey. The blood had provided a protective covering for those people.

There was for many years in the marketplace of Rotterdam, Holland a house known as *The House of a Thousand Terrors*.

During 16th century, the Dutch people rose in revolt against the cruel King Philip II of Spain. Philip sent an army to suppress the rebellion. Rotterdam held out for a time but finally fell.

From house to house the victors went, searching out citizens and then killing them in their houses. A group were hiding in a corner house when they heard soldiers approaching. A thousand terrors gripped them. Then a young man had an idea. He took a goat in the house, killed it, and with a broom swept the blood under the doorway out to the street.

The soldiers reached the house and began to batter the door open, when they noticed that blood had run under it. One soldier said to the others, ***Come away, the work is already done here. Look at the blood.*** And the people inside the house escaped.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper