

Are You Washed In The Blood?
Leviticus 17:11

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We're very familiar with blood. When we go to the doctor, we get blood work. We give blood at a blood drive because that saves lives. In any trauma situation, medical staff and EMS workers stop the bleeding first. We are very familiar with blood.

The Bible is a book about blood. From Genesis to Revelation, there is a stream of blood that imparts the very life of God. The blood is mentioned 700 times from Genesis to Revelation. Without the blood in the Bible, it would be like any other book and of no more value. The principle of blood laid down in this first sacrifice in the garden of Eden runs like a scarlet line all through the Bible. In Genesis 4, Cain and Abel each bring a sacrifice to God. One is accepted while the other is rejected, simply because Cain presented a sacrifice with no blood while Abel did. In Genesis 9, Noah sheds blood of the clean animals out of the Ark and God makes a covenant of grace with him. In Genesis 22, Abraham sacrifices a ram caught in the bushes in Isaac's place, and the blood of the substitute spares his son Isaac. In Exodus we are introduced to the Passover Lamb. In Leviticus, we have the tabernacle sacrifices with their steams of blood, and all through the rest of the book we follow the line until we trace it to its source. The source is God's perfect Lamb on Calvary, which all the others were but a picture and a type, and we see the One who met the three conditions of the Father: First — He was God's own gift. Second — He died in the place of others. Third — It was by the shedding of His own precious blood.

The whole plan of redemption rests upon the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible plainly teaches that life is in the blood.

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.” Leviticus 17:11

Life is so mysterious that science has never been able to define or fathom it. God said that life is in the blood of the flesh, so that there can be no life without the blood. We are particularly interested in the blood of the man Christ Jesus because in His blood we have life, not only as we think of it physically, but ETERNAL life as well.

1. The Blood Is The Source Life.

“For the life of a creature is in the blood.” Leviticus 17:11

In the human body, there are many different kinds of tissues. There is muscle, nerves, fat, glands, connective tissues, etc. All these tissues have one thing in common: they are fixed and stationary. Some are microscopically small and have a specific and limited function. Unlike these fixed tissues, the blood is fluid and mobile. It is not limited to one part of the body, but moves throughout the entire body and touches every other fixed cell as it supplies it with nourishment and carries off waste products.

In the normal human body, there are about five pints of blood, and this blood is pumped by the heart and circulates through the system about every 23 seconds so that every cell in the body is constantly supplied and cleansed. Blood brings oxygen and nutrients to all the parts of the body so they can keep working. It's why you lose a body part if circulation is cut off from it. When the blood can't get to that part of the body, it dies. When the blood no longer delivers oxygen and removes waste products, that part dies. Blood carries carbon dioxide

and other waste materials to the lungs, kidneys, and digestive system to be removed from the body. Life is in the blood.

The blood is composed of scores of elements that fight infections and carry hormones around the body. The solid parts of blood consist of mainly three kinds of cells. These are called platelets, thin transparent cells whose function is to heal and save us by clotting. The red cells carry the fuel to the tissues in the form of oxygen that nourishes and purifies our bodies. The white cells are the defenses of the body in combating infection that protects our bodies.

The red cells traveling through the lungs come in contact with the oxygen in the air we breathe and distributes it to the body. The blood picks up the waste products of tissues, the carbon dioxide, and the ashes of tissue metabolism, which many call "the cell garbage," and discharges this through the kidneys, the skin, the bowels, and lungs, and then refills with a load of precious oxygen and goes through the whole cycle again.

The food is carried to the tissues by the blood and in the same vehicle the "garbage" is carried off, and yet there is never any contamination, because the great Creator has made us so perfectly. Imagine if our city produce dealers were delivering our foods unpackaged in the same truck in which they haul the garbage.

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing flood? Are YOU washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

There is a unifying and purifying power of the Blood. The church of Jesus Christ is called His body, and we "*are members of His body*" and "*members one of another*" Ephesians 5:30-33. In this body, Jesus Christ is the head, and all believers are the members. These members are related to each other by the blood of Christ. The life of each member depends on His blood and is dependent solely upon the blood of the Lamb of God for life, nourishment, cleansing, and growth. Every born-again believer is a member of that body and lives the common life of every other member by the one thing that unites them and makes them "relatives and brothers." All believers are one through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said, "*And [God] has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.*" Acts 17:26a

We all have a common origin from Adam. It is Adam's blood that courses in every man's veins regardless of color or culture. This blood carries the sentence of death because of Adam's sin and, for this reason, all men die a common death, with our exception. The one thing which relates all men to each other is the blood that flows in their veins.

2. The Blood Is The Secret Of Living.

"I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar." Leviticus 17:11

Sin is a disease of the blood, and it can only be cured by the application of sinless blood. We all have "blood poisoning" because of the inherited sin nature. So potent was this poison that six thousand years after the sin, all who are related to Adam by human birth still succumb to that poison of sin which is transmitted through the blood.

The first Adam's sin corrupted the blood of the entire human family, so the pure, sinless blood of the last Adam, Jesus Christ, makes atonement for the sin of the world.

"For without shedding of blood is no forgiveness of sins . . ." Hebrews 9:22

It was the SIN of ADAM that brought death upon the whole race because it is ADAM'S blood that transmits original sin. This is the reason we are not called the SEED OF THE WOMAN, but we are called ADAM'S

SEED. ONLY Jesus is called the Seed of the Woman, because He was born of a woman without one drop of human blood in His veins.

Peter reminds us how our salvation was purchased. It was not human efforts and human wealth, *“but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”* 1 Peter 1:19

The very fact that sin is in the blood necessitated the VIRGIN BIRTH of Christ. Jesus was to be human, but also a sinless man. Human flesh is not inherently sinful, but human blood is completely filled with sin. This is why Jesus, who was *“born of a woman”* (not man), could be a perfect human being. It was because He did not have a drop of Adam’s sin in His veins. He did not share in Adam’s sin. Medically, from the moment of conception, the mother's blood and the baby’s blood never intermingle. The mother does not give the baby blood, the father does. It’s why you crack an egg open at breakfast and it has no blood. It hasn’t been fertilized yet. Jesus had a human body, but with blood that was not diseased by sin.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” Hebrews 4:15

The whole plan of redemption revolves around the blood. Sin is in the blood, and it follows that if sin is to be atoned for, sinless blood must be provided by someone who is totally unaffected by Adam's sin and yet belongs to the human race.

The human egg in the woman contains no blood. It is what the male contributes to his offspring. This is how Jesus could have a human body, but he did not have one drop of Adam's blood. This is the power of the virgin birth. There was only one remedy for SIN, and that was sinless blood; and only One could supply this, the sinless Son of God.

John would announce him as *“the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29

In the Old Testament, the central object of the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant. It was an oblong box made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. In this box was a pot of manna and the rod of Aaron along with the Law of God which demanded the death of the Israelites. They had broken that law even before Moses had brought it down from the mountain, and that broken Law demanded death. God had made a provision for the guilty ones to be spared from death and the penalty of the law. This provision was a mercy seat that rested on top of the ark which contained the Law of God. This mercy seat was a cover made of beaten gold with two Cherubim overshadowing it. This mercy seat was of no benefit until the High priest had taken blood from the altar and sprinkled it on the mercy seat over the ark and then when Jehovah came down upon the ark in the Shekinah cloud, He did not see the law, but saw the blood, and the law was satisfied. God was satisfied, and instead of the curse of the Law, He now brought the blessing of the blood.

On the night of the first Passover, they were to take a lamb and slaughter it and place its blood over the doorpost. God said, *“When I see the blood I will pass over you”* Exodus 12:13. The blood is the only escape from the curse of the law and the penalty of sin. There is only one place of shelter, and that is under the blood.

There is an incident recorded in the history of Israel to emphasize this great truth. In 1 Samuel 6, Israel had gone to battle against the Philistines and had superstitiously carried this Ark with the broken law and blood-covered mercy seat with them into battle, hoping it would give them the victory. Instead, they were defeated and the Ark of the Covenant was taken captive by the enemy and set up in the house of Dagon the Philistine Fish god. The next morning the Fish god Dagon had fallen down before the Ark, and the following morning the same occurred severely damaging the Philistine's god. Then an epidemic of terrible boils swept over the enemy country, together with a most grievous plague of mice which, together with the boils, almost drove them frantic. The priest blamed it all on the Ark and suggested sending it back to the land of Israel, which they did with a great deal of elaborate ceremony. When the Ark arrived back in Israel at the city of Beth-Shemesh, drawn by

two oxen before a brand new cart, the Israelites rejoiced at the return of the Ark. Someone, concerned deeply about the safety of the Ark and its contents, lifted the golden mercy seat from the Ark that contained the broken tablets of law. For just an instant the blood was removed from over the law and God looked upon the law without the protective cover of blood. In 1 Samuel 6:19, 20 *“But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them. And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, ‘Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?’”* 1 Samuel 6:19-20

Because they had removed the blood from over the law, the Lord smote the inhabitants of the city. This story is given to us to emphasize the fact that *“without blood there is no remission”* and that the BLOOD is the only guarantee from the curse of the law, which is death and the wrath of a Holy God.

Jesus marches to the cross as the true Lamb of God, whose blood alone was able to make eternal atonement for sin. The blood upon the mercy seat in the Tabernacle must be applied again and again. Each year on the day of the atonement, the High Priest repeated the ceremony and present fresh blood to be sprinkled on the Ark.

“Those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.’ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll I have come to do your will, my God.’” Hebrews 10:3-7

“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.” Galatians 4:4-7

The blood of the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament was corruptible and decayed and was soon gone, but the blood shed on Calvary was imperishable blood. It is called incorruptible. Peter says, *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”* 1 Peter 1:18-19

The blood that flowed from His unbroken skin in Gethsemane, the blood that covered His back as the cruel, weighted whip cut through His flesh as they scourged Him, the blood that oozed out under the thorny crown and flowed from His hands and feet, it was incorruptible blood.

The priest in the Tabernacle never spoke a word. All he did was present THE blood, and that was enough. The precious blood of Jesus is just as pure, just as potent, just as fresh as two thousand years ago. The priest in the earthly Tabernacle needed to repeat the sprinkling again and again, and it is a significant fact that among all the pieces of the furniture of the Tabernacle there was no chair to be found. We read about the altar, the table, the candlestick, and the Ark, but there is no chair in the Tabernacle of Israel. It simply signifies that the work of the earthly priest who sprinkled the blood of animal sacrifice was never done. He could not sit down. His work was never finished. We know this about our Great High Priest Jesus Christ: *“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, SAT DOWN on the right hand of God. . . . For by one offering he has perfected FOREVER them that are sanctified.”* Hebrews 10:12,14

In Scripture, the blood is called by many descriptive names. *“It is precious,”* says Peter. *“It is incorruptible,”* says David. *“It is overcoming blood,”* says John in Revelation *“for they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”* No wonder Satan hates the blood, because he knows the power of the blood of Christ.

3. The Blood Is The Story Of Love.

The final pictures of heaven are the redeemed in heaven in the book of Revelation. We hear them singing, “*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*” Revelation 1:5

All through the Bible we can trace the line of this pure blood throughout the Scriptures. The first mention of blood is in Genesis 4 where the blood of Abel “*cried from the ground for vengeance.*” In the preceding chapter, the blood is not mentioned by name, but it is inferred. After their sin, Adam and Eve tried to make garments to cover their shame from fig leaves. That is the history of man. Instead of realizing that sin doesn’t need a COVERING, but rather an ATONEMENT, man has always been trying to save himself by the work of his own hands and by garments of his own creation. So he weaves the flimsy fig leaf garment of morality or culture, or good works or law works, religion, education and reformation, and a social gospel, repeating the error of our first parents when they tried to save themselves by the work of their own hands. Their works failed them, and they have failed us all.

God comes to them in Genesis 3:21 with these words, “*For Adam and also for his wife did the LORD God make coats of skin, and (He) clothed them.*” Genesis 3:21 In this first record of sacrifice, we have the whole story of the blood. There are three things about this act of God which was a preview of the whole plan of redemption. First, Adam's sin called for God's intervention. It must be God's work and not man's. “*God made the coat of skins.*” Salvation must be ALL of the Lord. Second, Salvation must be by the DEATH of an innocent substitute. Since these coats were made of skin, an animal first had to die to provide the covering. A poor substitute (probably a little lamb) had to die that Adam might be saved. Third, it MUST BE BY SHEDDING OF BLOOD, for the animal must be killed to give its skin and in this sacrifice its blood must be shed. “*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.*” Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22

“*The blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.*” 1 John 1:7

In Revelation we read that the saints of God had “*washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.*” Washing in blood and becoming white. Try washing your robes in the blood and see what color they are. It is impossible to wash clothes white in human blood, but God’s chemical laboratory of redemption has found a way to wash away all filth and stain.

The white blood cells are called the regular “standing army” of the blood stream. When an infection occurs anywhere in the body and the body is attacked by an enemy “army” of germs, the news is flashed back to the “camp” where the white cells are manufactured and immediately turns out an increased number of these white cells and rushes them over to the point of infection. They have the strange power to kill germs and engulf them. So, when you prick your finger and a little infection starts, you soon notice a swelling around the wound. This is caused by blood being rushed to the area carrying these little “soldiers,” the white cells. These white cells surround the point of infection completely and attack the bacteria causing the trouble. What the blood in our bodies does for us in times of danger and attack, the PRECIOUS BLOOD of the Lord Jesus Christ does for each and every believer.

“*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, WHICH ACCUSED THEM BEFORE OUR GOD DAY AND NIGHT. AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB and by the word of their testimony.*” Revelation 12:10-11

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. He brings charges against us before God. But when He comes before God to accuse us, there is One there, our Great HIGH PRIEST, the Lamb of God, and all He needs to do is to point to the blood that was shed for us, and it is enough. Sometimes Satan also comes to accuse us. He points out our sins and failures. We see our shortcomings and the sins of the flesh and he says, “Are you a Christian? Are you saved? You don't look like a Christian.” The result is that often we go down and are defeated when we look at ourselves and our sins. We begin to doubt our salvation and question our redemption. How can we overcome

this enemy? How can we overcome this enemy? How shall we meet this infection? There is only one answer: *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.”* I see no good in myself. I have no hope in myself and have no confidence in the flesh. Then I plead the blood. I look to Calvary and point to Him who died for me and shed His blood for me and the light breaks through. I see that it is not my goodness nor the awful mountain of my sins, but it all depends on His blood.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.” 1 John 1:9

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