

Blood

Min. Carole Andreas
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Blood

Blood: some people simply pale and faint at the sight of it. Some would aspire to the medical field - but don't because: well, all that *blood*. It is associated with, pain, death, gore, horror stories: the bloodier, the scarier...the uncontrolled. When we see blood, it just can't be good. We don't really want to discuss it, especially when it comes to religion; that means sacrifice and isn't that what occultists and the dark obscure religions do? Surely it has little to do with Christianity because its, well, kind of gross and violent isn't it? Why do some Christians insist on sing about blood streaming down on them; isn't that a bit extreme? Isn't it just better left alone while we just discuss about faith, hope and charity, soup kitchens and doing good unto others? The visualization of Christianity is the lion lying down with the lamb, Jesus with the little children; surely not a pouring out of blood over us!

Well, the truth is that blood has very much to do with Christianity. The reason we can even discuss faith, hope and charity is due to blood; Christ's blood. Think of it, first of all, God made blood, so- it must be good. Therefore our negative connotations about blood must be a byproduct of the world's, (Satan's), perversion of it. In his effort to pervert this world, Satan has left no stone unturned when it comes to his attack on God's Word; another one of his schemes. Because God made it, there is a purpose for it. Everything in the physical world has its counterpart in the heavenly realm. So it is with blood. Leviticus 17:11a states: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood".

Now let's take a look at the spiritual side of blood. We hear from the scripture that Christ's blood was shed for the remission of our sins. When we take communion, we receive bread representing his body which was broken for us, (physical wholeness), and wine representing Christ's blood (remission of sins). It behooves us to seek greater understanding in the fullness of the meaning behind His blood and its association with the remission of our sins.

THE BEGINNING

It is always good to start at the beginning, so let's look in Genesis. Adam and Eve who were perfect in their creation had all authority of God's kingdom on Earth. They had been formed, made, and created. They had been created in the likeness of God. In that, they also reflected God's character, (love, wisdom, holiness and righteousness), and also within that, they freely worshipped and communed with God. They were set as kings upon the Earth having authority over it. Their relationship with God and their authority was contingent upon their obedience to Him. They had freedom within the bounds of that obedience, which was to simply *not* eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil lest they die.

They were, as we know, eventually beguiled by Satan, (who has been a liar from the beginning), who promised that they would *not* die if they ate of that tree. Yet, they did, they concluded after considering an "alternative" and direct contradiction of God's Word, that it would be a good thing to eat of that tree. They believed Satan rather than God their Father. This is where sin entered upon mankind. Roman's 5:12 states, "Wherefore by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Sin is an action against what God's glory requires of us; and the wages of sin is death, (*Romans 6:23*). Because of their action Adam and Eve were removed from the garden to prevent them from eating of the tree of life as well, giving them eternal life. Not only was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit lost to them, but as we know, they did eventually physically die.

Man got himself separated from God; *not* a good way to be. He was now essentially alone in the world – on his own. As we read in Genesis, he even tried to hide himself and his sin from God! Where before he conversed freely with God there was now silence. God wasn't especially happy about this condition either as He loved man. So much so, that He already had a plan to redeem man to His intended relationship with him; to have original authority, state and purpose. It was man's design and ultimately, his destiny. His

plan to redeem (another eroded term, meaning to buy back or exchange) man from the consequences of his sin was in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament of the Bible contains the unfolding of how God brought about the promised seed, His promise of man's redemption. (*Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 53:1-12*). He protected the bloodline of Adam and his son Seth to King David all the way to Jesus from Satan's continual attempt to destroy it. It was his concentrated intent to bring that particular bloodline to an end, thus destroying God's plan. It seems that this fallen angel has never quite grasped or perhaps admitted the completeness of God's omnipotence. God always makes good on His promises to man.

As we continue in this unfolding we encounter sacrifices made to God. Now, let's take a closer look at blood in light of sacrifice. At one time righteousness, (the quality of being right, blameless in God's sight), was accounted to man through his active trust and faith in God, as it was to Abraham. But as a group, man has this stunning tendency to complicate things. The descendants of Abraham and Israel, the Christ line, sought after a set of laws to observe, just like the other religions in their culture required. Well, they got them, and God's response is recorded in the book of Leviticus. It was entirely impossible for them to exactly obey the laws, in fact part of the law contained sacrificial requirements to cleanse man from failure to observe the details of the laws. Disobedience to one law was disobedience to the whole set of laws. The lesson being: there is no action or physical event by fallen man that can permanently and thoroughly release him from his sin nature and its consequences.

BLOOD SACRIFICES

The sacrifices required by God greatly differed from the other spiritual practices of their era. The Canaanites, Phoenicians, and Syrians with whom the Israelites were surrounded believed that their God and sub-gods, (and their wives), were personified in the things of nature: trees, birds, sun, bugs, sky, water, fire, animals, etc. Their oblations were magical

events that would bring certainty, peace, prosperity, crops, children... good favor. They had to appease them with the right thing at the right time to keep the gods from destroying them. Newborn human sacrifice was commonly required, temple prostitutes, orgies, the use of numbing drugs and drinking of blood were a norm within the cultural and spiritual atmosphere. An entire industry thrived in the crafting of idols and temples. However our creator Jehovah Elohim can not be contained in the things of this earth.

I Kings 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?,
Deuteronomy 5:18 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth

He forbids human sacrifice.

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

As the result of man's original disobedience, sin, human blood contained sin, therefore only the innocent blood of domestic animals, (fruits of their labor), were accepted by God. His sacrificial requirements were to atone for the disorder, or separation caused by sin, not a nutritive supply for Him. The intent was to restore the peace and right standing of man to a loving and forgiving God. The wages of sin was death, this they understood, and the sacrifices set them back in the right path and standing before the living God. The cleansing however was temporary. Continuous sacrifice had to be made for breach of the laws and festive thanksgivings.

The pagan religions were all rooted in The Plain of Shiner and were to make provision to the particular God or Goddess in exchange for personal gain. The pagan religions were not concerned with the spiritual condition of man other than what power and control could be gained in one's own realm. Gods were gods, and men were men: subordinates who provided for them – the way it would always be. Yet the true God, the creator of all

had a different reason and agenda for mankind. He would provide a perfect and final sacrifice that would provide for man total and permanent redemption of man's sin. He would sacrifice His Lamb: the Lamb of God, His Son Jesus Christ, thus restoring men to their original state: one with God, sinless and in fellowship with Him.

Science agrees that the seed of the male activates the egg of a female, thus bringing it to life. "Life is in the blood", the seed that was created by God and that impregnated Mary contained the life and genetic properties of His pure and sinless/righteous blood.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Before the time of the Levitical Laws, when Israel was in bondage to Egypt, God orchestrated an event forever known as The Passover. To this day The Passover is celebrated in the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. It is celebrated as a command that Israel remember that God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage. All of the firstborn within the Pharaoh's Domain died. All except those Israelites' who obeyed God's command to sacrifice a firstborn lamb, take it's blood and sprinkle it over the door of their homes. It was further commanded that no one was to leave the house until the next morning, but to stay under the covering of the innocent blood. All mankind, including Israel, was under the law of sin, and all had sinned. Once again, the wages of sin is death - yet when death came to claim the firstborn in the land of Egypt, it would "pass over" those households whose doorways were "covered" with the blood of the lamb. This was a foreshadowing of the "Passover Lamb" that God would later provide for all mankind through His Son Jesus Christ.

At the time of The Passover memorial Jesus Christ knew that He was the Passover Lamb, God's perfect sacrifice. He went willingly to the cross to enter into death for us, so that we might escape death. His blood was shed and became for us "The Covering for Our Sin". Your body is where you "live". The blood of Christ was shed for you and you spiritually have been "sprinkled" by His Blood, thus escaping the consequences of sins that were accounted to you by actions, neglect and sin nature – which was death. There

was and is no action that anyone can take neither sacrifice nor prayer, obedience or valiant deeds, wishing or debating that can remove sins from mankind. There are no new methods, theories or religious practices that culturally update the actions of God and the obedience of Jesus Christ. Such attempts are egotistical, totally unnecessary and misleading. God's sacrifice for us was and remains the onetime focal point event of mankind that released and redeemed us from the bonds of the earthly realm to the righteous eternity of The Kingdom of God. He simply wants us to accept the fact that when Jesus said, "It is finished." that mankind's redemption was completely fulfilled. Christ once and for all received God's mercy for us, thus restoring our original authority and correct relationship with God.

Romans 5:15-21 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16: And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. 17: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18: Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. 19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20: Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONCLUSION

We as Christians are to recognize and understand how and why the Blood of Christ was shed for us. In it is the resulting position that we now have as joint heirs with Christ. *Our* tainted blood was *not* acceptable; Christ's pure blood was. He was our substitute, His blood was shed for us, in our stead, and now the wages of sin have been removed from us. We have been passed over by death. It is therefore within reason that we should

aspire to, like the Israelites on that first Passover, remain within the covering of the lamb's blood: that is to remain with in obedience to God's will.

Our sins have been removed by the shedding of His Blood. The concept of "Blood" therefore is not a freakish thing; instead it is a very intimate, meaningful and hugely important aspect of Christian understanding and contemplation. Blood, specifically the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, is in God's terms what enabled us to be legally reclaimed from eternal separation from God's Holiness, Mercy and Blessings. So when you hear a congregation harmonizing about blood streaming down on them, understand that they are singing praise to their God, with immense gratitude, about having been sprinkled or covered by the blood of Christ the Lamb of God, and having been released from the sentence of eternal death and separation from the most Holy God of Israel.