

## Blood of Christ

Christ loved all of us so much, he was willing to shed His blood and die on the cross, so we can be saved. In this lesson, we will look at the importance of blood, with regards to making atonement for sins throughout the Bible. We will also examine the importance of Christ shedding His blood on the cross for you and me.

## Historical significance of Blood

**Genesis 4:3-5** “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.” and **Hebrews 11:4** “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” Clear back to the Old Testament times of Cain and Able, we have recorded that the shedding of blood, through animal sacrifice was done to worship God in a way that was pleasing to Him. This is why God accepted the offering Able made, but not Cain’s offering. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and many others offered animal sacrifices to God, because it is what God required. (It should be noted, that God never required man to kill man for an offering, only animals. It should also be noted there was nothing magical about the blood of these animals, only that these were the offerings God required. To obey God one had to offer what He required, not whatever an individual wanted to offer.)

**Genesis 9:4** “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.” and **Deuteronomy 12:23-24** “Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh. Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.” **Acts 15:20** “But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.” God has always forbid mankind from consuming blood. In the Patriarchal Period, Mosaical Period, and Christian Period, which we live in today, God has never given us the authority to take part in such a horrific practice as this.

**Exodus 12:7** “And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.”, **Exodus 12:13** “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”, and **Exodus 12:22-23** “And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.” Just before the Israelites left Egyptian captivity, during the last of the ten plagues, blood held great significance. The blood of an animal sacrifice placed on the two side posts and upper door post meant the destroyer did not enter that home, and leave death behind. The blood

of an animal sacrifice protected those that lived in the home from God's wrath that night. The blood of the animals was not magical, and did not itself protect anyone. The protection came from showing obedience to God, by doing what He said to do.

**Leviticus 16:11-16** "And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness." and **Leviticus 16:34** "And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses."

During the time of the Law of Moses, the blood of animal sacrifices was done to make atonement for sin. Again, the blood itself did not have any special properties. However, making the blood sacrifice showed obedience to God, just as not making the sacrifice would have shown disobedience. We also see that, during the time of the Law of Moses, this had to be done each and every year, it was not a one time offering that washed away ones past sins forever.

#### Christ shed His blood on the cross for sinful man

**Hebrews 2:9** "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." In the Christian Period, the period in which we live today, Christ became our blood sacrifice in place of animals. Today, we no longer need the blood of animals because Christ's sacrifice on the cross ended the Old Testament and began the New Testament. Today, if one becomes an obedient Christian Christ's blood washes away all of one's past sins.

**Hebrews 9:11-15** "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." and **Hebrews 9:22-27** "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the

heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" and **Hebrews 10:1-4** "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. In the Christian era, in which we live today, Christ has become our high priest, replacing the Levitical priesthood of the past. Also in the Christian era, Christ's blood replaces the blood of animal sacrifices. The blood of the animals could not gain us eternal salvation, but Christ's sacrifice does make it possible for us to gain eternal salvation. Christ only had to make His perfect blood sacrifice one time. The Levitical priesthood had to make the imperfect animal sacrifices every year.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" Christ was without blemish, or without sin. We could not have been redeemed by corruptible things. We could not have been redeemed by the imperfect. In order to gain salvation, we had to have Christ, who was without sin, make his willing sacrifice on our behalf. Because of what Jesus did for us all, we can have our sins washed away by His redeeming blood, **IF** we are obedient.

**1 John 2:1-2** "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Christ is our advocate with God. He died for the sins of all mankind. We can all have salvation through His redeeming blood, **IF** we are obedient.

#### The reason for the blood of Christ on the cross

**Isaiah 59:1-2** "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." and **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and **Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Because we have all sinned in our lives, we have all been separated from God. Because we have all been separated from God, we all needed something that would be able to bring us back into a state in which we are not separated from God. Christs sacrifice on the cross was the only thing that could give us a hope of salvation. Without Christs sacrifice, we would have no hope, we would be lost eternally.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” God loves us so much; He gave His son to suffer a cruel death on the cross so that, IF we are obedient, we can indeed be saved.

**Romans 5:8-9** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Even though, we are all sinners God loves us, and sent Christ to die for us. Through Christ’s blood that was shed for us, we can obtain salvation, that would not be possible otherwise.

**1 John 3:4-5** “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.” We have all sinned, therefore we have all transgressed God’s law. However, because Christ was sinless and willing to die for us, we can through His sacrifice obtain salvation.

#### Christ’s blood cleanses when contacted

Water quenches thirst when contacted.

Medicine heals the body when contacted.

The blood of Christ heals the soul when contacted in baptism.

**Romans 6:3-6** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” When one is baptized, they are figuratively buried with Christ. His blood washes away our sins in the waters of baptism. One comes out of the waters of baptism a Christian ready to begin life following Christ. Christ’s blood shed for us on the cross, which we figuratively contact in baptism, opened the door for the salvation of all that are obedient Christians.

**1 Peter 3:21** “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” Baptism saves us if we remain faithful Christians. However, without the blood Christ shed for us on the cross, salvation would not be possible, because the blood of Christ would not be available to wash away our sins in baptism.

**1 John 1:7** “But 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 cleanseth us from all sin.” If we walk in the light by being a faithful Christian, we will obtain eternal salvation. This would not be possible without the blood that Christ shed for you and me.

#### Conclusion

Hopefully, we can now all see how important it was for all of us, that Christ was willing to shed His blood on the cross for us. Without Christ being willing to shed His blood on the cross for us, we could not have our sins washed away, and we would be lost. However, Christ was willing to suffer on the cross, so we can have the opportunity for eternal salvation. Have you had your sins washed away by the blood of Christ, through baptism? This is the only path to salvation. If not why not?