

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ABOUT THE BLOOD

Hebrews 9:7-18

Introduction: God has spoken to us in the Scriptures in many places and in many manners, but the voice is ever the same, it is always the WORD of the same God. Hence the importance of treating the Bible as a whole and receiving the witness it gives in its various portions, concerning certain definite truths. It is thus we learn to recognize the place these truths actually occupied in Revelation, or rather in the HEART of GOD. Thus, too, we begin to discover that the foundation truths of the Bible are, which above others demand attention. It will become clear that there is no single scriptural idea, from Genesis to Revelation more constantly and more prominently kept in view, than that expressed by the words - "THE BLOOD."

I. THE BLOOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The record about the blood begins at the gate of Eden.
 - Able brought of the "firstlings" of his flock to the Lord as a sacrifice and there, in connection with the first act of worship recorded in the Bible, blood was shed.
 - It was "*by faith*" Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice and his name stands first in the record of those whom the Bible calls "believers."
 - This testimony shows that there can be no approach to God, no fellowship with Him by faith, no enjoyment of His favor, apart from the Blood.
2. Scripture gives but short notice of the following 16 centuries, then came the FLOOD, which was God's judgment on sin by the destruction of the world of mankind, however God brought forth a new earth from that awful baptism of water.
 - Notice that the first recorded act of Noah, after he had left the ark was the offering of a burnt sacrifice to God. As with Abel, so with Noah at a new beginning, it was not without BLOOD.
3. By the divine call of Abraham and the miraculous birth of Isaac, God undertook the formation of a people to serve Him. However this purpose was not accomplished apart from the shedding of the BLOOD.
 - Abraham must offer Isaac on the altar. That was not an arbitrary command of God, it was the revelation of a divine truth, that it is only through death, that a life truly consecrated to God is possible. It was impossible for Isaac to die and rise again from the dead, for on account of sin, death would hold him fast, but see his life was spared and a ram was offered in his place.
 - 400 years or so passed and Isaac became in Egypt, the "people" of Israel. Through deliverance from Egypt bondage, Israel was to be recognized as God's "first-born" among the nations. Here, again it is NOT WITHOUT BLOOD.
 - What the blood accomplished on Mt. Moriah for one person, who was the Father of the Nation, must now be experienced by that nation. By the sprinkling of the door frames of the Israelites with the BLOOD of the Paschal lamb, by the institution of the Passover as an enduring ordinance with the words - "*...when I see the blood, I will pass over you...*" The people were taught that life can be obtained only by the death of a substitute.
 - 50 days later this lesson was enforced in a striking manner. Israel had reached Sinai. God had given His law as the foundation of His covenant and that covenant must now be established, but it is stated in *Hebrews 9:7* - "*...not without blood...*" The sacrificial blood must be sprinkled, first on the altar, and then on the book of the covenant, representing God's side of that covenant, then on the people, with the declaration: "*THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT...*" (*Exodus 24*)

- It was in that BLOOD in the covenant had its foundation and power. It is by the BLOOD alone, that God and man can be brought into covenant fellowship. That which had been foreshadowed at the Gate of Eden, on Mt. Moriah, and in Egypt was now confirmed at the foot of Sinai. Without BLOOD there could be no access by sinful man to a Holy God.
- 4. There is however, a marked difference between the manner of applying the blood in the former cases as compared with the latter. On Moriah the life was redeemed by the shedding of the blood. In Egypt, it was sprinkled on the door posts of the houses, but at Sinai, it was sprinkled on the people themselves. The contact was closer, the application more powerful.
 - God said, **"...Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.." (Exodus 25:8)**
 - God, himself, gave the directions for the building the sanctuary and also the arrangements of the services. Draw near to the vestibule of the earthly temple of the Heavenly King and the first thing visible is the Altar of Burnt Offerings where the sprinkling of blood continues without ceasing, from morning till evening. Enter the Holy Place and the most conspicuous thing is the Golden Altar of incense from which also, together with the veil is constantly sprinkled with the Blood. Ask what lies beyond the Holy Place and you will be told that it is the Most Holy Place, where God dwells. If you ask how He dwells there and how He is approached, you will be told **"NOT WITHOUT BLOOD."** The Golden Throne where His glory shines is itself sprinkled with the Blood once every year, when the High Priest alone, enters to bring in THE BLOOD and to worship God. If you ask further, you will be told that always and for everything, THE BLOOD is the one thing needful.
- 5. This continued for 1500 years until the Lord came to make an end of all shadows by bringing in the substance and by establishing a fellowship with the Holy One, in spirit and truth.

II. WHAT JESUS CHRIST TEACHES ABOUT THE BLOOD

1. With Jesus' coming old things passed away, all things became new. He came from the Father in Heaven and can tell us in divine words the way to the Father. It is sometimes said that the words "NOT WITHOUT BLOOD" belong to the Old Testament, but what does Jesus say about this?
 - When John the Baptist announced Jesus' coming, he spoke of Him as filling a dual office as "The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" and the as "one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit."
 - Jesus, Himself, plainly declared that His death on the Cross was the purpose for which He came into the world; that it was the necessary condition of the redemption and life which He came to bring. THE SHEDDING OF HIS BLOOD was necessary..
 - In the synagogue at Capernaum He spoke of Himself as "the bread of life, of His flesh, ***"that He would give it for the life of the world..."*** Four times He said, ***"...Except ye..drink my blood ye have no life in you..."*** ***"...He that drinketh my blood hath everlasting life.."*** ***"...My blood is drink indeed..."*** ***"...He that drinketh my Blood dwelleth in me and I in him..." (John 6)***
 - Jesus confirmed the teachings of the Old Testament offerings, that man can live only through the death of another, and thus obtain a life that through resurrection has become eternal.
 - However, Jesus, Himself, cannot make us partakers of that eternal life which He has procured for us except by the shedding of His blood and causing us to "drink" it. NOT WITHOUT BLOOD can eternal life be ours.

2. Equally striking is our Lord's declaration of the same truth on the last night of His earthly life. Before He completed the great work of His life by giving it "as a ransom for many," He instituted the Lord's Supper saying, **"...this cup is the New Testament in my blood that is shed for you and many for the remission of sins. Drink ye all of it..."** (Matthew 26:28). **"...without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins..."** Without remission of sins, there is no life. But by the shedding of His Blood He has obtained a new life for us. The Blood He shed was, in the first place FOR us and is then given TO us.

III. WHAT THE APOSTLES TEACH ABOUT THE BLOOD (UNDER INSPIRATION)

1. After His resurrection and ascension our Lord is not any longer known by the apostles "after the flesh." Now all that was symbolical has passed away and the deep spiritual truths expressed by symbol are unveiled. However, there is no veiling of the Blood. It still occupies a prominent place.
2. **Hebrews 9:12, 14; 10:19; 12:24; 13:12-13; 13:20**
 - By such words the Holy Spirit teaches us that the BLOOD is really the central power of our entire redemption. **"NOT WITHOUT BLOOD"** is as valid in the New Testament as in the Old.
 - Nothing but the Blood of Jesus, shed in His death for sin can cover sin on God's side or remove it on our side.
 - Paul writes - **"...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus through faith in His blood..."** **"...being now justified by His blood..."** (Romans 3:24-25; 9
 - To the Corinthians Paul declares that **"...the cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the Blood of Christ..."** (1 Corinthians 10:16)
 - In Galatians Paul uses the word "Cross" to convey the same meaning, while in Colossians he unites the two words and speaks of **"...the blood of His cross..."** (Galatians 5:14; Colossians 1:20)
 - Paul reminds the Ephesians that **"...we have redemption through His blood..."** **"...and are made nigh by the blood of Christ..."** (Ephesians 1:7; 2:13)
3. Peter reminds his readers that they were **"...elect unto obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus..."** **"...and redeemed by the precious blood of Christ..."** (1 Peter 1:2; 19)
 - John assures his "little children" that **"...the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin..."** (1 John 1:7)
4. All of them (apostles) agree together in mentioning the Blood, and in glorying in it, as the power by which eternal redemption through Jesus Christ is fully accomplished and is then applied by the Holy Spirit.

IV. WHAT "HEAVEN" (BOOK OF REVELATION) HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE BLOOD

1. It is important to notice that even in the book of the Revelation of God, the BLOOD still retains its remarkable prominent place.
 - On the throne, John saw: **"...a Lamb as it had been slain..."** (Revelation 5:6)
 - As the Elders fell down before the Lamb, they sang a new song saying, **"...thou art worthy...for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood..."** (Revelation 5:8-9)
 - Later on when John saw the great company which no man could number, he was told in reply to his question as to who they were, **"...they have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb..."**

- Then again, when he heard the song of victory over the defeat of Satan, its strain was, "...*they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...*" (*Revelation 13:11*)
- 2. In the glory of heaven, as seen by John, there was no phase by which the great purposes of God and the joy and thanksgiving of the redeemed can be gathered up and expressed save in this: "***THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB...***"

CONCLUSION:

1. From the beginning to the end of Scripture, from the closing of the gates of Eden to the opening of the gates of Heaven there runs through the Scriptures a Golden thread it is THE BLOOD and that unites the beginning and the end, that gloriously restores what sin had destroyed.
2. It is not difficult to see what lessons the Lord wishes us to learn from the fact that the blood occupies such a prominent place in the Scriptures.
 - God has no other way of dealing with sin or the sinner except through the blood.
 - The blood must have the same place in our hearts which it has with God.
 - From the beginning of God's dealing with man, the heart of God has rejoiced in that blood, our hearts must rejoice in it also.
 - Let us take time and trouble to learn the full blessing and power of that blood..
3. Even taking time is no good, unless there is a definite taking of sacrificial trouble, sacrificial blood always meant the offering of a life.
 - The Israelite could not obtain blood for the pardon of his/her sin unless the life of something that belonged to him/her was offered in sacrifice.
 - The hidden value of His blood is the spirit of self-sacrifice and where the blood really touches the heart, it works out in that heart, like the spirit of self-sacrifice.
4. Let us separate ourselves from sin and worldly-mindedness and self-will that the power of the blood may not be hindered, for it is these things that the blood seeks to remove.
 - We can rely upon the Lord Jesus to reveal to us the power of His blood.
 - It is by this confident trust in Him that the blessing obtained by the blood becomes ours. He who gave His Blood for us will never let us down.
5. Trust Him above all, in power of His eternal high priesthood, to work out in you the full merits of His Blood.

(Preached by my father in 1969)