

The Blood of Jesus #1: Introduction, Covenant

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| 1 P. 1:2 | Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ : Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. |
| Rev. 12:11 | And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb , and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death |

We often speak and sing of the blood of Jesus, but why? There are many in the more modern denominations who find this quite offensive and even barbaric. Why should we say something so unusual? What does the Bible reveal about the significance of the blood of Jesus?

According to the Bible, the blood of Christ has initiated the new covenant, giving us justification, remission of sins, a cleansing not just from sin itself, but of a guilty conscience. It propitiates God's holy wrath against sin, reconciles us to God, redeems us to God from sin, saves us from His holy wrath and eternal punishment, and sanctifies us. It gives us a holy fellowship and communion with one another, gives us access to God, and the right to enter boldly into His presence. It is how He purchased and redeemed us to be a part of His bride the church, and makes us near to Him. It helps us to walk in obedience, and is one of the main ways we are preserved from the destroyer and overcome the devil.

Speaking such about the blood of Jesus might really be strange, except that the NT didn't come out of nowhere. It followed thousands of years of previous revelation from God in the OT about the necessity and efficacy of blood sacrifice.

OT events or rituals that show sacrificial shedding of blood:

1. Adam/Eve Abel/Cain, Abraham/Isaac - God provided the offering, and it needed to be a blood sacrifice
2. Covenants – Adam (?), Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and a predicted “new” covenant
3. Levitical sacrifices
 - a. Consecration of priests
 - b. Periodic sacrifices – morning and evening, monthly, feasts
 - c. Voluntary sacrifices - sin, trespass (guilt), burnt, peace (thank)
 - d. Special - Passover, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Covenant - an agreement between two parties with mutual benefits and conditions. Some are conditional (you do this, God will do this), others are unconditional, where God simply makes a promise from His side only (Noah, Abraham).

1. Adam – not strictly called a covenant, but many Puritan writers referred to an initial covenant of works under which men were placed at the beginning. It is not plainly stated but they considered it to be implied or deduced. If so, it was God that established the shedding of blood from the beginning (Gen. 3:21). Abel apparently knew that animal sacrifice was expected for offerings to God.
2. Noah – Gen. 8:20-21, and 9:8-17 Noah made a thank offering after alighting from the ark, and God responded with a covenant not to destroy the earth any more by flood
3. Abraham – Gen. 15:4-18 – God passed through the laid-out halves of the animal sacrifices, and made a covenant with Abraham to give the land to his seed.
4. Moses – Ex. 24:5-8 They made burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. Moses took basins of the blood, and sprinkled the altar. Then he read the book of the covenant to the people, who agreed to its terms. He then sprinkled the people with the blood, saying “Behold the blood of the covenant”.
5. David – 2 Sam. 7:8-16 that God would establish David's house, kingdom, and throne
6. A “new” covenant predicted – Jer. 31:31-34 – law written in hearts, men will know God, He forgives iniquity and remembers sin no more.

7. The new covenant realized

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| Mt. 26:28 | For this is my blood of the new testament , which is shed for many for the remission of sins . |
| Heb. 8:6-13 | a better covenant with better promises. God puts his law in our hearts , and we can know God. He is merciful to our unrighteousness and remembers our sins and iniquities no more. (also 7:22) |
| Heb. 10:29 | ... trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant , wherewith he was sanctified , an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? |
| Heb. 12:24 | Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant , and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. |
| Heb. 13:20 | Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant , Make you perfect in every good work to do his will ... |