

No Blood, No Atonement Leviticus 17:11

Blood is defined as: The fluid that circulates in the heart, arteries, capillaries, and veins of a vertebrate animal carrying nourishment and oxygen to and bringing away waste products from all parts of the body. (Dictionary) Functions of Blood: 1 - **Transportation**: oxygen & carbon dioxide; nutrients; waste products (metabolic wastes, excessive water, & ions) 2 - **Regulation** - hormones & heat (to regulate body temperature) 3 - **Protection** - clotting mechanism protects against blood loss & leukocytes provide immunity against many disease-causing agents. I've seen people missing limbs or known people having certain organs taken out of body, and still live. But none can live without blood!

Yet, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22) No Blood, No Atonement!

Opening Prayer

Leviticus 17:¹¹ *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 was written more than fourteen hundred years before Christ was born in Bethlehem, this scripture can only be understood in the light of Revelation 13:8 which speaks of our Lord Jesus as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." "And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men** for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." Revelation 5:9.

If you take the time to carefully study all of the Biblical accounts regarding blood, it becomes quite clear that a good deal pertained to the use of blood in the sacrifices. Let us consider and contrast the significance of the blood of animals and that of Christ. The focus was upon blood, teaching us the importance of the "blood of Jesus" and what His sacrifice means to us today! Let's look at them, for just three-point outline:

I. Only the blood of Jesus has the power to make atonement for our souls.

Webster defines "atonement" perfectly: "the reconciliation of God and man through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ."

The Blood of Christ – Hebrews 9:

11When Christ came as high priest of the **good things** that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place **once for all** by his own blood, having obtained **eternal redemption**.

What are the 'good things'? They sum up the blessings Christ has won for his people, an effective salvation and that this has nothing to do with earthly sacrifices! Only the blood of Jesus has the power to **redeem** us. Again, Webster provides an accurate definition: redeem: "to buy back".

Acts 20²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, **which he bought with his own blood**.

Therefore, "we have been bought with a price." I Corinthians 7:23. 'Once for all' (Greek: **ephapax**) is an emphatic expression underlining the decisive character of Christ's saving work.

II. Only the blood of Jesus has the power to cleanse us from sin.

The Blood of Christ – Hebrews 9:

13The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean **sanctify** them so that they are **outwardly clean**. 14**How much more**, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death**, so that we may serve the living God!

The verb 'sanctify' is often used of the moral and spiritual process of 'sanctification.' The Levitical system is not dismissed as useless. It had its value and was effective within its limits. But those limits were concerned with what is outward.

"...and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." I John 1:7. Only the blood of Jesus has the power to **sanctify our souls**. "Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate." Hebrews 13:12.

Christ was concerned with the sins that trouble the consciences of men. So his sacrifice was directed to the cleansing of conscience, something the sacrifices under the law could never do (10:2). So, the Bible speaks of a cleansing 'from acts that lead to death.'

III. Only the blood of Jesus has the power to justify us.

The Blood of Christ – Hebrews 9:

15For this reason Christ is the **mediator of a new covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

16In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. 19When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." 21In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22In fact, **the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." Romans 5:8-9.

Only the blood of Jesus can **provide** the soul **perfect peace**. "And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself..." Colossians 1:20.

Conclusion: Why all the blood? To teach us to love our God, who reconciles us to himself. He shows us his love reminding us of our sinfulness, his holiness, and his salvation.

Closing Prayer before Invitation:

Jesus, the Christ, has given us a transfusion, placing His living blood within us, if we will only ask Him to come into our hearts as Lord and Saviour of our lives! The blood of Jesus will throb through our veins with life - Everlasting Life - for blood in a living being is quickened; but, blood that does not flow in a living being, soon putrefies and rots into nothingness! Tell me, is the blood of Jesus flowing through your veins?