

The Blood of Christ

Genesis Chapter 4

God cannot allow sin in heaven; He has to look at sin on the earth and He longs for mankind to appropriate the blood of His Son. Almighty God knew there would come a time when He would have to surrender His only Son who was without sin and perfect in every way to die in the place of the mankind He created. Disobedience to the laws and principles of God brought a curse not only on mankind but on the ground and the animals as well.

In Genesis chapter 4 we read of the birth of Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground; Abel was a keeper of sheep so they both were farmers of sorts. Both had seen their father Adam till the ground and tend to the sheep. They both had seen their father offer sacrifices to God under His instructions. They both had seen their father shed the blood of the sacrifice and pour the drained blood round the base of the altar. At a very young age the boys would ask what their father was doing and what it all meant, at a very young age they would be taught the commandments of God.

Hebrews 9:22

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

God knew that the blood of His only Son Jesus, was going to be shed on a cross to redeem mankind from the grip of Satan and buy his creation back to freedom in Jesus Christ. So, this principle of the shedding of blood of a sacrifice for the remission of sin was introduced soon after Adam and Eve came on the scene. There came a time when Adam and Eve's two sons were old enough to sacrifice to God of their own free will.

They knew their sacrifice had to have a cost attached to it, it could not be bought at a local store, they were taught there had to be shedding of blood involved, they had been taught all this by their father. A product of the curse cannot remove the curse there has to be a sacrifice and the shedding of blood of an innocent.

Cain was the first to offer a sacrifice to God. Remember this was a sacrifice to honour the shed blood of Christ that was to come. They were both responsible to act in personal faith in the coming seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent's head and restore man back to God. Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground. This too would be accepted but as a tithe to the Lord not as a sacrifice. (Lev. 27:30). With the fruit of the ground or indeed of the trees of the field there is no shed blood involved.

To God the blood was all important, Cain's offering was not accepted by God because he simply disobeyed and came in unbelief and self-will which was an insult to God and His Son. Verse 5 says that Cain was wrath and very miserable, this is the result of disobedience and self-will. God said, "*without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins*" (Heb.9:22). Cain ignored that command completely and brought his own sacrifice to replace the shed blood of Christ. It would appear Cain knew what he had done wrong because God told him. God even gave him another chance to bring the correct sacrifice and his brother Abel showed him by example, and so did his father but still Cain's pride got the better of him and he introduced the concept of Religion where it was not wanted.

Religion is anything that replaces God in our churches, or our private lives and we do this today quite blatantly. A church in the UK wanted to attract more people to church so they took out loads of seats and built a helter-skelter in their place. Another church in north of England took out lots of seats and built a crazy golf game in their place, there were photographs of both in the newspapers. A TV programme uses a church most weeks to bring people together to buy and sell old furniture, a wonderful testimony to the nation I am sure!

No wonder the name of Great Britain has been reduced to the 'UK' Jesus has been left out completely.

Jesus Himself took a whip and cast out traders who were buying and selling in the inner court of the Temple of his day. He said they made His House what He called a den of thieves. We still replace God for Satan today and wonder why God 'allows' the death of little children, the fires that burn up our land, the floods that destroyed parts of the world, and now the Coronas virus bringing so much stress and killing to so many of our loved ones. You have heard it, I have heard it, "if God is a God of love why does He allow all these murders, these fires, the flooding and now this virus". The answer is simple. People place themselves outside of His protection. These disasters are a consequence of man's pride and of the fallen world we live in. Jesus shed His blood for all who would repent (turn from a lifestyle of sin), call on His name and live for Him. In doing so we place ourselves under the Lordship and protection of God.

2. Chronicles 7:13/14, a verse aoften quoted says,

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

I know lots of people who have said "why does God allowed these awful things to happen?" I have thought it myself. If you have such thoughts, then we both had better read this verse again very carefully! If the Lord *will* allow such things it will be because of sin. He did it in Egypt. He sent plagues, He sent pestilence and death to the Egyptians to get Pharaohs attention.

He wants our attention too, so we had better give it to Him, and quick.

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was Righteous.

Our righteousness comes from Jesus Christ and the cross and His shed blood, and the cross must be the object of our faith. Religion will not make us righteous, going to church will not make us righteous, taking communion will not make us righteous. The only way to become righteous in God is to come in faith to the foot of the cross, it is the cross where Jesus paid the price of our sin, we must recognise the cross. And I don't mean a picture of it on the wall or a wooden cross standing in the corner even if it is overlaid with gold. All the animals sacrificed throughout the Old Testament, millions of them, only covered the sins of the people they did not do away with them. When Jesus died on the cross He took our sins away to be remembered no more. And He said "it is finished"

Colossians 2:13.

And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh (being dead spiritually and separated from God) has He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, blotting out the handwriting of Ordinances that was against us which was contrary to us (referring to the Law of Moses that was God's standard of righteousness which man could not reach) and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross. (The Law was abolished in Christ's death)

We are now free to accept Jesus as our Saviour or reject Him and go our own way and look at the state of mankind who have gone their own way!

Abel offered his sacrifice in the manner that God taught him, by taking a young lamb without blemish. This lamb was as close to sinless as man could get. It was given to the Priest, and he slit its throat and let its blood flow round the base of the altar. The base of the altar was the proper place to sprinkle the blood of all sacrifices signifying deep humility and surrender of the heart of the person offering the sacrifice. The blood was used by the law of Moses when the Priest sprinkled blood on the altar to signify acceptance of the covenant and the Children of Israel's pledge to obey it when they saw the blood.

Exodus 24:7

And half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant and read in the audience of the people: and they all said, all that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.

Then Moses would take the other half of the blood and sprinkled the book of the law and all the people then considered the covenant binding. It all centred on the blood; it was the blood the people looked to.

Cain and Abel had seen their father offer a sacrifice of a lamb, now Abel offered his lamb in the same manner and both were accepted by God. This time Cain brought his offering of fruit as a sacrifice which was not accepted by God which made Cain very angry. In a jealous frenzy he took the life of Abel and killed his brother by slitting his throat. 1 John 3:12 says Cain slew his brother, the word slew in the Greek is "sphazo" which means to cut the throat whereas the word to kill in the Greek the word "apothnesko" is used. God knew what Cain had done because Abel's blood cried out to Him from the ground demanding retribution. The Hebrew 'for cry out' means to 'shriek in anguish'. In the life of Abel's blood was all the posterity, ambition, skills, compassion, love, joy and everything else that makes up the composition of a man, and his blood cried out at the waste, loss and unfulfillment of it all.

If the blood of Abel cried out for retribution from a righteous God how much more dose the blood cry out of all the martyrs, who were slain for the sake of the gospel, the disciples and those burnt at the stake down through the ages. What about some 42 million unborn babies worldwide whose lives were taken because they may interrupt the selfish lives of their mothers and fathers. God the creator knows about and hears the sobbing cries of such waste.

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.

The Bible says the life of a baby is in the blood, not the flesh, the flesh is what the doctor ruins thinking the abortion is complete. We now understand life is in the blood of the little one and while the flesh cannot cry out to God the baby's blood can, and God hears it.

It was the blood of Jesus Christ God's own Son that was laid on the altar of the cross and His blood was poured out to atone for our sins. It is the shed blood of Jesus that cries out to us to repent of sin. It is the blood, together with our testimony that is our weapon against Satan.

Revelation 12:8/11.

Satan dwelt in the heavens with Christ, there was a war in heaven (1000s of years ago) and Michael and his Angels fought against the dragon (Satan) and his angels and they prevailed not. (They lost!)

..neither was their place found any more in heaven. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, NOW is come Salvation and Strength and the Kingdom of our God and the Power of His Christ: for the accuser of our Brethren is cast down which accused them before our God

day and night. (verse 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 death.

NOW! After centuries and millions of inadequate lambs, goats, and doves being offered up to God as a sacrifice until Jesus comes. The Bible says NOW Salvation and the Kingdom has come. Jesus died, once for all and the shed blood of the Lamb of God replaces all else that man can offer, sin is NOW dealt with by the blood of Jesus God's own Son on the cross.

These two verses alone tell us how important the shed blood of Jesus is. Satan wars against Christ, Michael and his Angels fight against Satan and his angels, this scenario in God's own dwelling place is bad enough but God then threw Satan and his followers out of heaven onto earth. It is at that point that God gives His people, not only the ability to fight but the weapons to use against the accuser of the brethren which is Satan. He said NOW! After years of offering lambs and so on, is come Salvation Strength and the Kingdom of God and the Power of His Christ. With Satan cast out of heaven, no place left for him anywhere, being humiliated having lost the war and his home, God knew he would be fuming and out to get God's people in revenge, so God gives us all we need to fight him. And it is by the shed blood of Jesus that flowed from the cross and the testimony of what the blood of Jesus has done for us that makes us overcomers.

John described seeing the innocent souls of those who were slain and placed under the altar of incense and hearing their blood cry out asking God "how long until we will be avenged". The blood of martyrs and the blood of those innocent babies cry out to God as Abel's did, but they will not be avenged until all those yet to be martyred in the tribulation and until Jesus comes again when He will right all wrongs.

If you want to know how important the blood was to God read Leviticus Chapters 5/6 for instance.

Without the shedding of the blood of an animal no sin could be forgiven. For centuries an animal was sacrificed on the altar, its blood was shed to represent the shed blood of the coming Jesus the spotless Son of God who was made a curse in our place. The blood of thousands upon thousands of lambs took the place of Jesus as a sacrifice until it was reduced to a mere formality and ritual. God could not stand Israel's pretence anymore.

Israel, according to verse 9 of Isaiah Chapter 1 acknowledged God left them a very small but faithful remnant to pray and intercede for the nation. It was the remnant which prayed and sought the Lord, they asked forgiveness, they asked for mercy and had they not done so they would become as Gomorrah.

Isaiah 1:11. God said,

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? Says the Lord: I am full of the Burnt Offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beast; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs or of he goats.

God did not accept the Religious activity of Israel; in our modern words He says He is fed up with our worship when our hearts are far from Him. Israel looked to the ceremony rather than what the ceremony represented. He will not accept our Religion or idol worship today either. We are all guilty of bringing to the Lord that which He doesn't want. I remember spending the best part of the week of evenings painting a Dickens type picture right across the front of the church at Christmas. On another occasion my friend and I spent a similar amount of time making a large waterfall on the platform with water cascading down with coloured lights changing the colour of the water as it flowed. Oh! they were good, and the congregation looked forward each year to see what we would do next. Did Jesus enjoy them, I very much

doubt it! It was Religion and idol worship brought into the house of God much like the crazy golf we spoke about earlier. When will the modern church learn that God wants our hearts... completely? Without all the trappings that we bring!
All our religious activity which may well be genuine on our part but in most cases it is empty and is an abomination to God He said so.

Verse 13 God said

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

We are much like Israel we bring into our church and include in our meetings all sorts of additions which are simply labelled Religion and idol worship. The Prophet Isaiah cuts across the excuses of the people who were maintaining that all the outward ordinances were required by Law, so they protested that they were blameless. But read what God said about them in verse 10.

Isaiah Chapter 1:10

Hear the Word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the Law of our God you people of Gomorrah.

God not only calls the rulers of Israel to listen to the voice of God laying much of the blame at their feet being bad leaders, but now He calls those that the leaders had responsibility for, people of Gomorrah. Hearing these words, you can imagine the anger all round Jerusalem. This is what the Bible tells us, and I don't think the modern church is exempt from this sort of teaching even if it is not preached from the pulpits of today. We should expect to hear a true wake up call from the true prophets and then act on everything God is saying. We are in a season of preparation for the end times. A time to draw close to Jesus and a time to get our lives right and be ready to meet Him.

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? says the Lord.

A question God asked Israel all those years ago.

A question that He asks of the modern church as well.

The pure blood of Christ

Mathew 1:18

We believe in the virgin birth, lots don't. Joseph was married to Mary. Espousal amongst the Hebrews was the legal part of a marriage. All documents were signed, contracts were completed, and the contract specified a time from the signing to the actual coming together of the married couple. (Gen 29:18. Deut. 20:7). Before they came together Mary was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit. This would normally be a frightening thing to happen and worthy of death (Deut. 22:22-28). But this birth was of the Holy Spirit and there was a difference. Joseph, a Godly and upright man thought to hide Mary to save her shame, but an angel came to him in a dream and said *Joseph son of David fear not, that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost*. Note Joseph was called son of David, even in the birth of Jesus that bloodline was kept.

We are told today that the blood of a baby comes from the man and not the woman. We read in the scriptures that *life is in the blood* so did the life and blood supply of Jesus come from Joseph then? No! his blood was contaminated by sin the same as everyone else's, also Mary and Joseph had not come together yet according to the espousal contract, so nothing had passed between them. That would have played right into the hands of Satan. He could have

said Jesus was a mere man and full of sin so could not die in man's place. And he would be right, Salvation from sin would be finished before it had started, the cross would have been a waste of time, and the shed blood that flowed from the cross would be no better than yours or mine.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and all the flock over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which He purchased with His Own Blood.

Paul addressed the Pastors in Ephesus who were to teach this truth to the Church and tell them they were purchased by God's Own Blood which makes our Salvation steadfast and sure. So, Who bought the Church? God bought the Church, with what did God buy the Church? His Own precious Blood. Pastors tell your congregations this wonderful truth. The blood of Jesus came from His Father in heaven by the Holy Spirit. Pure, Holy and powerful blood able to wash away the sins of the world and the Holy Spirit gave it to Mary direct from God the Father, man's blood could not take away the sin of the world. Does God have blood then? Well He did on this occasion! Thank you, Heavenly Father.

The only thing that can take away your sin, your guilt, your depression, your sickness is the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross at Calvary. All the sacrifices offered by millions since the time of Abel whose blood still cries out, cannot and will not please God enough for Him to wash away sin. What He does accept is the Holy Blood of His Son Jesus. If you want your sins forgiven why not accept Jesus too. In faith meet Jesus at the cross, ask Him to forgive you for all your wrong doings, start to read the Bible at St Johns Gospel in the New Testament and simply tell Jesus how you feel. He will meet you at the cross where He shed His Blood for you.

Be Blessed

My grateful thanks to my friend Graham Towse who has read and checked these studies. I also thank him for his encouragement and his valued support.

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