

Eleutheros Newsletter

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News of Interest

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Christian books to very needy people: Africa, India, Russia, the Middle East, and Spanish speaking countries! Also, “a book and a Bible” to US troops!

<http://www.eleutherosbooks.com/>

The Blood of Christ

And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood: and without shedding of blood is no remission ([Hebrews 9:22](#)).

God has been revealing the importance of blood sacrifices since the time of Adam and Eve. After they fell into sin, God realized they had a need for clothing and some hope for forgiveness.

Unto Adam and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them ([Genesis 3:21](#)).

The word “blood” does not appear here, but the implication is that God killed an animal; and therefore its blood was shed. The Lamb of God died thousands of years later, providing a way for mankind to be saved, allowing righteousness to be imputed from Him to those who believe. The coats of skins are pictures of “putting on the new man” ([Colossians 3:9-10](#)). Thus we see that this act in Genesis was a picture of what Jesus did for believers.

Did Adam and Eve understand that Jesus was their Savior? Of course, the answer is “no,” but they did understand that God was both holy and loving and that blood was shed so that they would not be ashamed.

There is a steady revelation about the blood throughout the Old Testament. The same can be said for grace and faith. These three bedrock truths have been an important part of God’s revelation to man since the very beginning.

Below is a partial list of the Old Testament’s teaching about the blood:

1. ***Abel’s sacrifice was acceptable to God because an animal was offered, and therefore blood was shed. And in the process of time it came t pass, That Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord, And Abel, he brought of the firstlings of the flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell ([Genesis 4:3-5](#)).***

The rest of the story is reveled in verses 6-16 of this chapter. We can see what happens when

somebody tries to change God's standard into something else, even though there was some effort made to make an offering to God.

Cain undoubtedly worked hard to produce "the fruit of the ground" which he offered to God. He probably felt that his offering was just as good as Abel's, but when he made the decision to ignore God's directions regarding sacrifices, to become rebellious in not making the adjustment to offer what God insisted on, and to kill his brother Abel, he fell very deep into sin and paid a heavy price as a result.

*And Cain **said** unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear ([Genesis 4:13](#)).*

This story illustrates how important it is to follow God's directions! Religions today have come up with substitute ways to appear "good," but in the end they are not recognizing that God has provided only one way to be saved, and the consequences of not believing Him are very heavy indeed, just as they were for Cain.

2. **God revealed even more about the blood when He gave instruction to Moses about the Passover.** *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth of the same month... And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on thee upper doorpost of the houses, wherein they shall eat. And they shall eat the flesh that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread: and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 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 ([Exodus 12:6a](#); [12:7-8](#); [12:13a](#)).*

These verses instruct that the lamb was to be "without spot," just as Jesus was sinless; and the blood was to be smeared clearly on the entrance to the house, just as believers are to have the blood applied to their hearts.

The results? When the Father sees the blood applied, deliverance is immediate, and the consequences of ignoring or disobeying God's command is death ([Exodus 12:29](#)).

3. **Blood was a part of many of the offerings prescribed by God soon after the first Passover.** The following offerings required blood: the sin offering ([Leviticus 4:5-17](#)), burnt offering ([Exodus 29:16](#)), atonement ([Leviticus 16:14-18](#)), trespass ([Leviticus 7:2](#)), peace ([Leviticus 3:2-13](#)), and the blood of the covenant ([Exodus 24:5-8](#)).
4. **God revealed clearly that both life and atonement for sin are in the blood.** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul ([Leviticus 17:11](#)).*

The "trail of blood" continues throughout the Old Testament. Surely Isaiah understood the importance of the blood when he wrote [Isaiah 53](#); and so did David when he wrote [Psalm 22](#).

Below is some of the New Testament's teaching on the blood of Christ:

1. **At the last supper, the Lord instructed that the cup was representative of His shed blood.** *And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*

([Matthew 26:28](#)).

2. **The crown of thorns upon His head, the nails in His hands and feet, the scourging before the crucifixion, and the piercing of His side with a spear produced the blood, that sinless blood, which redeemed us from our sins** (read [John 19](#))!
3. **The church universal was purchased by Christ's blood.** In his farewell address to the Ephesian elders, Paul said, *Take heed, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood* ([Acts 20:28](#)).
4. **Christ's blood is the basis for propitiation.** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare righteousness for the remission of sins that are past* ([Romans 3:25a](#)),
5. **Christ's blood is that basis for justification.** *Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him* ([Romans 5:9](#)).
6. **Christ's blood is the basis of reconciliation.** *And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby* ([Ephesians 2:16](#)).

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who hath made us both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in His flesh the enmity... ([Ephesians 2:13-15a](#)).

7. **Christ's blood is the basis of forgiveness, both in salvation and fellowship.** *In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace: Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence* ([Ephesians 1:7-8](#)).

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 ([I John 1:7](#)).

8. **Christ's blood is vastly superior to the blood of bulls and goats.** *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* ([Hebrews 9:11-12](#)).
9. **Christ's blood has great sanctifying power.** *Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate* ([Hebrews 13:12](#)).
10. **Christ's blood is the basis for the everlasting covenant.** *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* ([Hebrews 13:20](#)).
11. **Christ's blood is he means to overcome Satan.** *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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 the brethren is cast down, which accused them before our*

God day and night. 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 ([Revelation 12:9-11](#)).

When I See the Blood

John Foote

*Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,
Died for the sinner,
Paid all his due:
Sprinkle you soul in the blood of the Lamb,
And I will pass; will pass over you!*

*O great compassion! O boundless love!
O loving kindness,
Faithful and true!
Find peace and shelter under the blood,
And I will pass; will pass over you!*