

The Blood of Jesus (Part 1 of 2)

In this bible study we will look at Jesus and how His blood affects us and what His blood means for us as Christians. (Read Hebrews 10:1-10) In this passage we can see that there is a distinct difference between the blood of Jesus and any other blood. This passage teaches us that in the O.T. system of sacrifice the blood of animals served to remind us of our sins but had no power to remove them, only the blood of Jesus holds that power. But the passage goes on to tell us that God prepared a body for Jesus specifically to enable Him to remove sin from the world, how does God accomplish this and why was Jesus' blood different from any other? The answer begins all the way back in Genesis. In chapter one of Genesis the Godhead (the trinity) create man (Gen.1:26). Now remember Adam is created, he is not born like you and I he is totally original and made to bear God's image and as God's image bearers this means that we share some of the attributes of God. Then God places Adam in the garden as the representative of all mankind, he is the standard by which man is judged and he is the benchmark by which we are judged. In chapter two of Genesis God creates woman, she is created through Adam and she is different because God used part of Adam to create Eve, consequently, everyone, including Eve, is now descended from Adam. In chapter three of Genesis we see the fall and while, technically, it was Eve who ate the fruit first, Adam is held accountable remembering that he is the head representative of man, that is why Rom.5:12-14 says, *'Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.'* Staying in chapter three of Genesis we read how, after their fall, God curses the man and the woman and in Vs.15 God places a hostility (enmity) between Himself and men and at the same time gives the first mention of His redemption promise. Now remember this, sin came into the world by way of Adam, not Eve and she inherited her sin condition through Adam, the same way everyone else has since Adam, again Scripture tells us in 1 Cor.15:21-22, *'For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.'*

Think for a moment about how God accomplished the sinlessness of Jesus seeing as He was born of a woman. If Eve is inherently sinful like all of us, how would a child born of a woman be sinless? To answer that we have to go back again to Genesis to chapter fifteen where God makes His covenant with Abram and his promised seed. Now, Gal.3:16 tells us, *'Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.'*

Now, since the fall God promised a redeemer who would, through His blood, take away the sins of the world, and we know from our reading in Hebrews that the blood of animals can't do it, only the blood of Jesus. Why Jesus' blood and no one else's? Well Scripture answers that, look at Luke 1:30-35. Now I have to stress at this point that Mary is not sinless. She is a born sinner like you and I but now the mystery begins to unfold.

All over the world couples are in a relationship whereby they have children and those children are conceived in the womb and this is where we see the difference between us and Jesus emerge. Now let's take a few moments to look at pregnancy. From the very early stages of pregnancy the umbilical cord is established, this serves as a two way exchange system, the mother gives the baby oxygen and nutrients and the baby expels it's waste to the mother but, at no stage of pregnancy does the blood of mother and baby mix, in fact, at week five of pregnancy the baby has already started to establish it's own blood supply. Naturally speaking, the blood supply only ever comes through the father because it's the father who fertilizes the egg in the ovum which produces the child.

It's little wonder then that David writes in Psalm 139:14, *'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made .Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.'*

Now, because Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and not man, His blood was holy, clean and pure, His blood was not tainted by sin because it is the life blood of God Himself. His blood was the only acceptable offering on the cross because His blood and His blood alone is able to atone for the sins of the world.

So then, if we remember Eve's creation, and how she was taken from Adam's rib, she cannot pass down from her generation to the next the curse of sin, that has to come through the father because the blood comes from the father. Now, the line of the curse comes through the blood, through the father. So every human being is a born sinner by virtue of the fact that he has inherited it through his father, not through his mother, although she is just as much a sinner as the father is by virtue of her father. Why did God insulate the woman from the curse? Because He was looking through the corridors of time to the coming of "The Redeemer" Jesus had to be born of a woman, but yet He had to be sinless. Now, God was the one who impregnated Mary so that she could become the mother of the Lord Jesus without benefit of a human father, therefore Jesus could be born of a woman without the effects of the curse that came from the human father. He was sinless and divine, His blood system did not originate with the human element, Mary, it originated with God, yet since He was born of the woman, He was human, He had the same appetites that we have; He ate; He slept like we do, and yet was without sin.

Throughout the scriptures, the picture is given of a lamb, spotless and without blemish. Jesus is this Lamb slain from the foundation of the world and the O.T. use of blood as a sacrifice points forward to the realisation of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus' blood on the cross.

Consider what was accomplished for us by the blood of the cross? Jesus Christ conquered sin and death (Hebrews 13:20), by which we have free access to the Father (Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 10:19-22). Redemption and justification (Acts 20:28; Romans 3:9, 24, 25; 4:7; 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Revelation 5:9, 10; 7:14). Forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5). Protection from judgment (Exodus 12:13). Jesus gained victory for us over Satan (Revelation 12:11). We have deliverance from guilt (Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:19, 22). Peace with God (Colossians 1:20). Sanctification (Exodus 29:37; Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 13:12). This is why Jesus is our saviour and redeemer and this is why only His blood was sufficient to atone for our sins, because He is the Lamb of God, holy and without blemish. Next time we will look further into the blood of Jesus, but for now we leave the last word with God Himself, *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life"*. (Lev.17:11)