

Power in the Blood

Leviticus 17:10-14

November 9, 2008

Intro

The book of Leviticus is a book that describes the relationship that men can have with God. God promised that His presence would go with them and be with them in the land that God promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But if His presence was among them, then they needed to respond to God's presence in the worship of their heart to Him.

But he also provided a way that sinful man could approach a holy God. That is man's greatest problem, that we are sinful and yet He is absolutely holy. So God gave Israel the provisions of not only worship offerings, but also sin and guilt offerings.

We know of course that God gave Israel a set of laws and standards that described what God's holiness expected of them, but some then believed that it was in keeping these laws that they could approach a holy God.

Is this correct? There are many who believe this today not only in Israel, but right here in our own country and throughout the world. But those who believe that it is by maintaining a certain degree of keeping rules and laws have missed the point of the very scriptures that they claim to be honoring.

In fact the verses we are studying today give us the basis for how sinful Israel could approach a holy God and how we also can approach a holy God.

The answer is found in a study of blood, but the problem is that blood is offensive. The reason that blood is offensive is because it refers to sin, and referring to sin makes people feel bad, and that affects their self esteem. But what good is self esteem if it is based on self deception? What we need is to know the truth and by the truth we will be set free.

I. Life is in the Blood

- 1 Verse 11 begins with a straight-forward truth; that the life of the flesh is in the blood.
- 2 As one encyclopedia of put it, "Blood is the life stream of the human body."

A. The bible contains a scarlet thread

- 1 From Genesis to Revelation you see a scarlet thread running throughout the scriptures that speaks of the atonement of blood.
- 2 Atonement in the scriptures refers to "covering" in Hebrew and we see this with Adam and Eve in the garden. After they sinned, they made coverings with fig leaves, but then God gave them the skin of animals with which to cover their nakedness and shame. Although it's interesting that they needed no covering at all before they sinned.
- 3 Then we see in the story of Cain and Abel that Cain brought an offering from the

fruit of the ground, but Abel brought an offering from the firstlings of the flock and of their fat portions.

- 4 Then you see Noah, after the flood, built an altar to the Lord and offered clean animals to the Lord
- 5 Then you see Israel as they are about to be set free from their oppression and slavery were to place the blood of a lamb on the lenthil and doorposts of their homes. They had to walk through the blood of the lamb to enter into their homes.
- 6 You then see the ordinances of the offerings and sacrifices which speak so clearly of the atonement with God and the forgiveness of their sin which then points so clearly to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.
- 7 Throughout our study of Leviticus we read more than twelve times that their sin would be forgiven them when they come to God based on the blood of the sacrifice.
- 8 Then of course we come to the reality of Christ's blood shed on our behalf of which there is so much to say.

1 Peter 1:18-19, knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

- 9 Then we come to the last days, in Revelation, where it says...

Revelation 5:9, And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

B. Blood is truly amazing

- 10 Blood itself is an amazing creation that truly speaks to its being the stream of life that runs through the human body.
- 11 Every cell gets its nutrients from the blood and by blood every cell is provided with the oxygen needed for life.
- 12 Blood also removes the impurities from the body and keeps the body from dying of its own toxins.
- 13 Our heart beats an average of 72 beats per minute, depending on who is driving the car.

Illus – My heart used to average 60 beats per minute and then I raised five kids. It now

beats at 65 beats per minute.

- 1 Our bodies contain an average of 1.3 gallons of blood, but that is pumped through our bodies such that about 400 gallons is pumped through our bodies every day.
- 2 We have more than 60,000 miles of blood vessels in our body, with some capillaries so small that only one blood cell can pass through at a time.
- 3 One of the main sources of heat in our bodies is the friction of blood passing through vessels.
- 4 The blood protects the body from the invasion of bacteria and viruses.
- 5 The body also has an amazing ability to respond to any crisis the body encounters and send more white cells or platelets to the area of trouble.

Illus – When Nicole was nine she had a terrible fever and rash on the palms of her hands and soles of her feet. They didn't know for sure what it was so they took the gamma globulin from donated blood. How powerful that was in her body!

- 1 What a testimony of God's creation! Its **irreducible complexity** speaks so clearly to the power of the creator in giving us life.

Illus – The evolutionists suggest that the worm was the first to have blood, but unless it was perfectly formed, the worm would bleed to death at the first scratch.

C. Blood was not to be eaten

- 14 Today there are many dishes that some cultures prepare that are made from blood, and many of them are not the least bit appealing to me.

Illus – In England and Scotland it is very common to make blood sausage and the Masai tribe of Africa will drink cow's blood curdled with milk.

- 15 Vs 13-14 explain why the Jews were instructed not to eat of the blood of any animal.
- 16 Since the life of flesh is in its blood, then they were to pour out the blood of an animal completely. Even when hunting, they were to adhere to this strict principle.
- 17 Vs 14 explains that the blood is identified with its life and all life belongs to God.

App – there was a belief among men throughout history that the drinking of blood was the transfer of life to the person drinking the blood.

In the days of the Roman gladiators, for example, it was common for the victorious gladiator to drink the blood of the one defeated as a way of taking his strength into the life of the victor.

Some would eat the blood of animals believing that the same principle applied. But all life belongs to God.

Illus – Today, when doctors give a person a transfusion, they are bringing blood into someone and they can often feel the strength coming into them from the blood given to them.

II. Only Christ's Blood Redeems the Soul

- 1 Every one of the blood sacrifices that we see in the Old Testament refer to Jesus Christ.

A. There is only one place to meet God

- 1 In verse 11 it says, "The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls."
- 2 In other words, there is only one place that the blood is effective, on the altar of God.

Illus – If they were to try to offer to God any sacrifice other than at the altar it would have no power. When Israel was divided and the northern kingdom set up an altar at Bethel, it had no power.

- 1 The altar pointed to the cross of Calvary and only there is man able to meet God.
- 2 For there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)
- 3 The amazing thing is not that there is only one way for men to have forgiveness of their sins; what's amazing is that there is any way at all!

Hebrews 9:22, And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- 4 When a Hebrew came with his sacrifice, he was coming to meet God and it was important that he confess his sins; which means that he must be in agreement with God!

1 John 1:9-10, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make

Him a liar and His word is not in us.

B. Christ's blood speaks a better word

- 3 When we were reading about Cain and Abel, we also read that God told Cain that Abel's blood cried out to him. So it's interesting to read in Hebrews...

Hebrews 12:24, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

- 4 What was it that Abel's blood cried out? Justice! But Jesus' blood speaks a better word. Mercy! Grace!
- 5 Only His blood is effective in bringing the life of God to each of us.

Hebrews 10:4, 12, 14 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins... but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God... For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

- 6 It was only the blood of Christ which made the Old Testament saints accepted by God...

Hebrews 9:15, For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

- 7 It's interesting that today in Israel that at the Temple Institute they are preparing for the rebuilding of the temple, including preparing utensils needed to restart temple sacrifices.
- 8 When Christ returns they will then discover that the meaning of the temple and the sacrifices was completely fulfilled in Christ.
- 9 Everything the God wants to give us, he gave to us by the blood of Christ.

App – God demonstrated his love for us when Christ died in our place.

- 1 We are justified by the blood of Christ.
- 2 We have redemption by His blood.
- 3 We have been washed in his blood.
- 4 We have been sanctified by his blood.
- 5 We have then brought near to God by the blood of Christ.
- 6 We have peace because of Christ's blood.
- 7 We have gained victory by His blood.

8 We have been reconciled by His blood.

C. We must partake of His blood

- 10 Throughout the scriptures we see this theme that it is not enough to simply recognize the power of the blood of Christ, we must participate in it.
- 11 The Passover Lamb's blood must be applied.

Illus – My first sermon was on the bread of life. You must partake of it for it to have any effect on our life.

- 12 The communion cup is a picture of taking Christ's blood into each of us. That is powerful and for disturbing picture, but Jesus taught this Himself as a picture of the life that comes into us from God Himself.

John 6:49-65 the bread of life

- 1 We are meeting God at the cross of Calvary, and God is meeting us. We come to Him and give Him our sins so we can then give Him our hearts. He gives us His love and then He gives us His life!

There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

**There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains,
lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.**