

The Blood of Jesus

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The pattern was laid down in the Old Testament legal system as blood sacrifices (animals) were required to give the children of Israel a means for their sins to be rolled forward off them. This was in anticipation of the cross out in the distant age where the blood of the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, the lamb of God, was to be freely given. This would provide the means for the sins of mankind to be removed. Psalms 103:12 (NIV) assures us *"as far as the east is from the west so far has he removed our transgressions from us"*. John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the lamb of God in John 1:29b (NIV). *"Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."* and John 1:36 (NIV) *"When he saw Jesus passing ,by, he said, "Look the lamb of God."*

In the Old Testament we see a picture of **total salvation** in the Passover Supper. The head of the family was responsible for offering a spotless, unblemished animal who was put to death as a sin sacrifice. The blood was caught in a basin and applied to the door posts of the dwellings with hyssop (thought to be a herb for purifying). The father was held responsible for his household. This act of obedience to the instructions given provided deliverance from the destroyer who passed through, claiming the life of every first-born son who was not in a dwelling marked with (protected by) the blood. The flesh of the lamb was roasted and eaten. Exodus 11 & 12 recounts the events. Psalms 105:37b (Amplified)states *"there was not one feeble person among their tribes"* as they left Egypt. It challenges us to ponder this provision of deliverance from the heavy-handed enemy. Let us reflect on the provision of physical strength the children of Israel received from God, their maker. **Obedience** was required in observing the Passover instructions with the father held accountable for applying the protection for his household.

We move forward through time to the cross where the perfect sacrifice was made. The Lamb of God, who shed a blood so pure, freely gave a life so unstained by sin that it could cover all of the sins rolled forward from the Old Testament days. It also provides coverage for all the sins to be committed by mankind not yet born. This provision for atonement (reconciliation of God and man) through the blood is eternal and extends through the ages to the end of time.

The man standing spiritually naked before his maker in the sin line of Adam has to have a covering to come into the presence of a Holy God. This covering is provided by the sacrifice of Jesus at the cross with his Holy blood. We remember Adam and Eve were clothed with animal skins by their Creator in the garden after they sinned. This obviously was accomplished by slaying animals. Once again this pictures death and blood.

Jesus hung on Calvary, having been beaten at the whipping post, his head pierced with a crown of thorns, his side brutally opened by a Roman soldier's spear, his hands and his feet nailed to the stake (cross) on which he was crucified. After he surrendered His spirit to His father and made the profound declaration, *"It is finished"*, John 19:30 (NIV) a vast inheritance of the provision of salvation (sozo) now stands ready for any man, woman or child to receive by faith and confession of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We embrace, by faith, the cross claiming what was done for us by the blood sacrifice.

The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ conquered Satan and provided deliverance for the believer from the ravages of sin. We have a vicious enemy who *"prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"*, I Peter 5:8b. He hopes we do not know our Kingdom inheritance. We have to remind him we are blood washed and our sins are removed as we confess them and we walk in the light. I John 1:7 (NIV) assures us: *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin."*

Reconciled

II Cor. 5:18 (NIV) tells us we are reconciled (brought into harmony) to God through Jesus Christ and we have a ministry of reconciliation - that by word and deed we might aim to bring

others into harmony with Him. *"All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."* We place our trust in the finished work of the cross and we proclaim that message of reconciliation out to the world in our daily walk with the Lord.

Priesthood of Believers

Rev. 5:9 speaks of the 24 elders in heaven falling down before the Lamb. 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. You made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth."* Hebrews 10:19 (NIV) states *"Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the most Holy place by the blood of Jesus - by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is His Body, and since we have a great priest over this house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."* This scripture makes clear we are to have full confidence to enter the Holy of Holies (the interior portion of the Old Testament tabernacle, symbolizing for the present day believer, the place closest to God) by the power and virtue of the blood.

Hebrews 10:14 reminds us that: *"By a single offering He has forever and completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy."* (NIV)

- *Brothers and sisters that is us!*
- *We were purchased!*
- *We are priests!*
- *We are to reign!*

I Peter 2:5 (Amplified) states: *"Come and as living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood to offer up those spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable and well pleasing to God through Jesus in Christ."*

Victory/Warfare

So then we are to fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (God's unmerited favor) that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need." Hebrews 4:15 (NIV). Rev. 12:11 (NIV) declares: *"We overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony."* We overcome Satan when we testify personally to him what the word says the blood provided for us at the cross. We proclaim, by faith and through the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells each believer, the victory secured for us at the cross. We remember that the children of Israel had specific instructions they followed to be protected from the destroyer. They had to be obedient to be protected by the blood on the door at the Passover. (Ex. 11 & 12.) We, as believers in Christ Jesus, are also protected as we are obedient to God's commandments. The longer we walk with the Lord the more accountable we become as we learn more of His principles of Kingdom living.

When we come up against hardship, challenges, frustrations we have the authority to proclaim God's sovereignty over our lives. We proclaim the victory won for us at the cross by the blood of Jesus through His death on the cross. This is done in the authority and name of the one who is our provision. We know we can never add to the work done at the cross. Our place is to remind our enemy, Satan, of the price paid by Jesus' shed blood at the cross.

We stand in the victory over Satan and his schemes which Jesus' death provided for the believer. We enforce the victory by the words of scripture.

Mercy/Power/Deliverance

When we proclaim the blood it calls mercy from the mercy seat in heaven where Jesus is seated with the Father - His Father - Our Father. The whole realm of God's power is opened when the child of God honors, uses and claims the blood of Jesus. There is a royal blood line and the great destroyer cannot get through it. We must remember to proclaim the blood by speaking aloud in faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a passive faith in the blood that brings victory. It is an active proclaiming of it in faith by each believer. Proclaim it anywhere there is evidence of pressure, tension, or any kind of Satanic effort to thwart the

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