

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

*The
Holy Blood
of Jesus Christ*



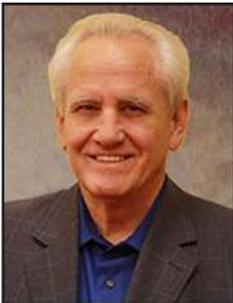
by Leroy Surface

A Bloody Religion?

“It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.” Hebrews 13:9

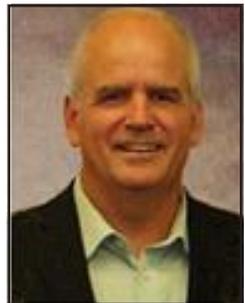
Many years ago, a Jewish friend of mine whom I had been witnessing to for several years, abruptly shouted at me as I entered his place of business, “*Leroy, your religion is nothing but blood and gore.*” Evidently he had seen our telecast at a time we were teaching on the cross and blood of Jesus Christ. I was amazed that one whose religion under the law of Moses had required two lambs to be slaughtered every day for 1500 years would say such a thing. Millions of lambs and bullocks were offered at the Feasts of Passover during that same time period, and not one was found that could bring any real benefit to the one who offered it. In contrast, Jesus, “*the Christ, the Son of God*” Matthew 16:16, offered “*one sacrifice forever*” Hebrews 10:12, which was sufficient to “*take away the sin*” John 1:29 of everyone who simply believes the truth and trusts in Him. The message in this booklet is a brief, but in depth study on the history of animal sacrifices, and why they were “*imposed*” Hebrews 9:10 on the children of Israel until Christ would come.

Behold the Lamb Publications



Leroy Surface

The purpose of Behold the Lamb Publications is to share the gospel of Christ according to what the scriptures actually say. We dare not attempt to make the scripture fit any particular doctrine or show it to say something other than what God has said. As a young man I was told by an elder



Keith Surface

minister that I should just accept what the leaders of “our movement” told us was true rather than believe what I saw the scriptures to be saying. I chose to believe that the word of God is true. Anyone that will do the same will find the gospel of Christ to be a simple message with the power to make everyone who believes it ...free indeed!

The Holy Blood of Jesus Christ

by: Leroy Surface

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” Hebrews 13:12

Introduction

During a period of fifteen hundred years under the Law of Moses, millions of innocent animals were sacrificed as a sin offering to God, yet there was not one offered whose blood could take away sin. In fact, the apostle Paul exposed the weakness of such sacrifices repeatedly in his epistles. In his epistle to the Romans, he questions the Jews, *“Are we (Jews) better than they (the Gentiles)?”* His answer to his own question; *“No, in no way”* Romans 3:9. To the Hebrews (Jews), he explains why, after fifteen hundred years of animal sacrifices under the Law of Moses, they were no better than the heathen nations around them; *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* Hebrews 10:4.

During those fifteen hundred years under the Law of Moses, two lambs were offered every day, which were known as “the daily sacrifice,” and consisted of *“the morning sacrifice”* and *“the evening sacrifice”* Exodus 29:38. Moses prescribed not only the daily sacrifice of two lambs, but also the sacrifices which were to be offered on the Sabbaths (weekly), the new moons (monthly), and on the *“solemn feasts,”* which came three times a year. These were the feast of unleavened bread (which concluded with the Passover feast), the feast of weeks, and the feast of tabernacles II Chronicles 8:12-13.

The feast of Passover was only one of seven feasts a year that the children of Israel were commanded to keep. Every family in Israel was to observe the Passover by offering a blood sacrifice,

normally a lamb. The very poor could offer a pigeon or a turtledove, and the wealthy could offer a bullock, but this meant the feast of Passover was the bloodiest of all feasts. The young King Josiah offered 30,000 lambs and 3,000 bullocks at what was said to be the greatest Passover ever observed in Israel II Chronicles 35:7. Other wealthy individuals donated 7,600 small cattle, plus 800 oxen to be offered in that same Passover II Chronicles 35:8-9. This brought a total of 41,400 lambs, bullocks, small cattle, and oxen which were slaughtered and offered in a great burnt offering to God, a sacrifice intended to cover the sins of the nation.

King Solomon offered 22,000 oxen and a 120,000 sheep at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem, beside the offerings which all the people brought II Chronicles 7:4:5. After Solomon prayed his prayer of dedication, the glory of God filled the temple, and the fire of God came from heaven to consume the sacrifices. The glory of God was so great in the temple, even the priests could not fulfill their ministry as the entire congregation fell on their faces to worship God. It should be noted, however, that the presence of God did not come in response to the burnt offerings, but to the praises of the worshipers II Chronicles 5:13-14, and to the dedication prayer of King Solomon II Chronicles 7:1. What a wonderful day this was for the congregation of Israel as God Himself kindled the fire that consumed the sacrifices.

This feast to dedicate the temple continued for seven days as the priests were occupied continually, sacrificing the thousands of sheep and oxen as offerings to God. At a sacrifice such as this, the blood of the animals slain must have flowed like a river out from the temple, and down to the brook Kedron until the waters of the brook flowed red for many days. Yet, for all this, there was not one drop of blood in that river of blood that could take away the sin of the people. Why were they offered, and what purpose did they serve? The purpose of this message is to explore the scriptures to find the answers to this vital question.

What Does God Require?

*“Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**”* Micah 6:6-8

It is commonly taught that God has from the beginning required that man could only approach to Him with the blood of animals. There is an almost universal picture in the minds of people that the ancient patriarchs were continually offering burnt offerings and sacrifices to God as their only means to approach Him. This was most certainly not the case from the beginning. In fact, there are only seven (7) instances of animal sacrifices recorded in the scriptures during the first twenty-five hundred years after the entrance of sin. It wasn't until the children of Israel rejected the voice of God at Mount Sinai and the Law of Moses was *“added because of transgressions”* Galatians 3:19, that animal sacrifices and burnt offerings were *“imposed”* Hebrews 9:10 upon the people. The children of Israel transgressed against God when they refused to hear and obey His voice when He spoke to them from Mount Sinai.

“And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” Exodus 20:19

According to Moses in Deuteronomy 5:27, the children of Israel promised to obey Moses in all the things he would speak to them, and out of this “choice” came “The Law of Moses.” On the same day they drew back from God and refused to hear and obey His voice, God imposed animal sacrifices upon them. He said to Moses, *“An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt*

sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen” Exodus 20:24.

There is no record the children of Israel had ever in the past offered animal sacrifices to God. The Passover lamb, which they had slain the night before leaving Egypt, was not a “sacrifice to God,” but rather a feast for the people. The blood of the Passover lamb was placed upon the doorpost of every house of the children of Israel as a sign to the death angel not to enter that house. They ate the flesh of the lamb during the night hours, and they were commanded to “eat all of it” with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. This was not ceremonial, because it was very practical. They would leave the land of Egypt the next morning, and for the next seven days they would eat only unleavened bread as they fled from Pharaoh and his army. The feast of the lamb was to them “*strength for the journey*” I Kings 19:7-8.

If the children of Israel had believed God and obeyed His voice at Sinai, they would have never in their lifetime offered a burnt offering to God. The prophet Jeremiah confirmed this to their descendants shortly before Jerusalem was destroyed by the army of Babylon.

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people.” Jeremiah 7:21:23

This “indictment” against Jerusalem was summed up in these words, spoken by God just before Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed the city and the temple; “*But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth*” Jeremiah 7:28. The prophets of God understood the gross error of those who believed their sins were covered by the

blood of the animals which they offered continually. Hear the words of just a few of the prophets;

Samuel:

*“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**”* 1 Samuel 15:22

Samuel’s words to King Saul actually relate back to the day the children of Israel refused to obey the voice of God at Sinai, which caused burnt offerings and sacrifices to be imposed upon them. If they had obeyed, they would never have offered animal sacrifices. Five hundred years later, Samuel reminded the King, *“To obey is better than sacrifice.”*

Isaiah:

*“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and **I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.** When ye come to appear before me, **who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? 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. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.**”* Isaiah 1:11-15

This indictment of Judah and Jerusalem, which was given by the prophet Isaiah, begins in the first chapter, and continues throughout the entire book. In the last chapter, the indictment concludes in the same tenor as it began; burnt offerings and animal sacrifices could not cover the sins of those who refused

God and walked in their own ways. They could be diligent in the keeping of “*new moons, Sabbaths, and feast days*” but God would not receive them. He hates religious ceremony, but He loves those with “*poor and contrite spirits*” who “*tremble at His word*” Isaiah 66:2

“He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.”

Isaiah 66:3

David:

*“For **thou desirest not sacrifice**; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”* Psalms 51:16-17

Amos:

*“I hate, **I despise your feast days**, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. **Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them**: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. **Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs**; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.”* Amos 5:21-24

Stephen, the young martyr for Jesus Christ, quoted the next words of Amos in his indictment against the Jews just before they stoned him to death for his testimony of Jesus;

*“...as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, **have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them**: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.”* Acts 7:42-43

Even in their wanderings in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses, the children of Israel's hearts were never toward God. Instead, they worshiped idols in their hearts even as they offered burnt offerings to God. Oh how this resembles much of the worship in the church today.

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men...” Isaiah 29:13

A Brief History of Animal Sacrifices

1. *“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. **And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.**”* Genesis 4:4

“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous....” Hebrews 11:4

These verses are the record given of the first animal sacrifice to be offered by any man to God. The New Testament record says *“By faith (believing God) Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.”* It is obvious that God told each of these sons of Adam exactly what they were to offer, but only Abel *“believed God,”* and brought the *“more excellent sacrifice.”* When he *“believed God,”* Abel became the first man to be *“justified by faith.”* The scripture says of Abraham that he *“believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness”* Romans 4:3. When Abel *“believed God,”* he offered the *“more excellent sacrifice,”* by which he *“obtained witness that he was righteous.”* Notice that the scripture says, *“**The LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.**”* More important than the sacrifice was the man who offered the sacrifice. The offering must indeed be that which God required, but if God did not respect the man, his offering would never be accepted. David

explained it this way; “...*a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*” Psalms 51:17.

2. Over 1650 years passed before the scripture records the sacrifice of another animal. After the flood destroyed every living person with the exception of those few who were safe in the ark, Noah offered one of each of the “clean” animals, which had been provided for food while on the ark, as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Genesis 8:20

3. Another 435 years passed before the next recorded incident of an animal sacrifice. This occasion was not actually a sacrifice to God, but the “cutting of covenant” between God and Abraham, which in ancient times was done by slaying certain animals, dividing their carcasses into two pieces, and “*passing between the pieces*” Genesis 15:17:18. This covenant was an everlasting covenant that guaranteed the descendants of Abraham would possess the land of Canaan forever. This is when Canaan became “the land of Promise” to the children of Israel.

Abraham had no children at the time, but within a year, Ishmael was born to him by Hagar, and fourteen years later, Isaac was born to him by Sarah. The descendants of these two sons of Abraham have contended over the land of promise until this very day, but God made it very clear that Isaac was the child of promise. As a result, the present land of Israel, and much more than they currently possess, belongs to the Jew. Contention over this piece of “real estate” is what will bring the final blood bath in the land of Israel just before the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

“And he (God) said unto him (Abraham), I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram

of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.” Genesis 15:7-10

4. Abraham built several altars during his lifetime where he “*called upon the Lord*” Genesis 12:7-8, but there is no mention of burnt offerings or sacrifices until at least another thirty years passed. Abraham was about one hundred years old when Isaac was born. When Isaac was a young man who was strong enough to carry the wood for a burnt offering, God told Abraham to offer Isaac for a burnt offering.

“And he (God) said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” Genesis 22:2

This was a test of Abraham, whether he would obey God. Only after Abraham had bound Isaac and placed him on the wood of the altar, and was prepared to plunge a knife through his heart did God stop him:

*“And he (God) said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and **Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.**”* Genesis 22:12-13

The offering of this ram in the place of Isaac was only the fourth recorded instance of an animal sacrifice in the first two thousand years after the fall of Adam. There is no hint that Isaac offered animal sacrifices during his lifetime, and in only one place does the scriptures tell of a sacrifice offered by Jacob. This would be the occasion of a “peace treaty” between Jacob and his father-in law Laban.

5. When Jacob decided to return to Canaan from Haran, he took his wives and children, along with much cattle and sheep, and secretly departed while his father-in-law was in the fields with his flocks. Unknown to Jacob, his wife Rachel had stolen her father's idols of silver and gold, and hid them among her stuff. When Laban discovered their departure and the theft, he pursued Jacob in great anger, and overtook him at Mount Gilead. After they were reconciled to one another, they gathered stones and made a "heap," and set up a "pillar" beside it for a "witness" of an oath between them. Each of them swore not to pass beyond the heap for harm to the other. Laban said, *"The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us."* The scripture continues, *"And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac"* Genesis 31:53. Jacob had a brief encounter with God over twenty years before at Bethel, but neither of these men truly knew *"the God of Abraham and of Isaac"* at the time of this sacrifice.

"Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount..." Genesis 31:54

Abraham Genesis 13:4, Isaac Genesis 26:25, and Jacob Genesis 33:20, each built altars to the true God of Israel, where the scripture says they "called upon the name of the Lord." Jacob also set up "pillars" for memorials at Bethel on two occasions and poured out drink offerings of oil and wine upon them. There is no mention of burnt offerings at any of these altars, however.

6. The next sacrifice of a lamb was the "Passover offering," which is of the utmost importance to the children of Israel. In the day of God's great wrath against Egypt, He gave the children of Israel a way of escape. They were to choose a lamb out of their flocks on the tenth day of Nissan. It was to be a lamb of the first year, one without spot or blemish, and they were to slay it on the fourteenth day. This lamb was not offered to God as a sin-offering, however. Its purpose was twofold.

First, when the children of Israel placed the blood of the lamb on their doorposts, it was a sign to the death angel not to enter that house. This was the night God gave His greatest judgment against

Egypt, in which the “death angel” would pass through the land to slay the firstborn son of every family in Egypt.

Second, the inhabitants of the house were commanded to eat the flesh of the lamb throughout the night, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were to eat it “...*with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover*” Exodus 12:11. In the morning, they would leave Egypt “with haste.” For the next seven days they would eat only unleavened bread as they fled Egypt, and would not prepare another meal until they were safely across the Red sea, with the army of Pharaoh destroyed behind them. “Eating the flesh of the lamb” was to give them “strength for the journey.”

“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, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:13

This is a beautiful type of the blood of Christ, which would be shed at the feast of the Passover some fifteen hundred years. God had promised, “*When I see the blood, I will **pass over** you,*” which was the origin of “Passover.” So many wonderful things can be said, and thousands of powerful messages have been preached about the “Passover lamb” in Egypt, but when all is said and done, it was still the blood of an animal, and Paul defined it’s weakness when he said, “*it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*” Hebrews 10:4

Almost fifteen hundred years would pass before Christ was incarnated into this world as a man. When Jesus of Nazareth entered His ministry, John the Baptist introduced Him as “*The Son of God*” John 1:34, and declared Him to be “*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. Christ our creator came into the world as a man to die on the cross as the “Lamb of God,” to “take away the sin of the world,” and become our savior. He would be our “Passover Lamb” I Corinthians 5:7.

Moses built an altar at Rephidim after the great victory God gave the children of Israel over the Amalekites, and called it “Jehovah-nissi” Exodus 17:15, which means “Jehovah is my banner.” This was not an altar of sacrifice but rather an altar in memory of the miraculous victory over their enemies. People of generations to come would see the altar and read the inscription, “Jehovah is my banner,” and many would believe upon the true God of Israel.

7. The seventh and final animal sacrifice recorded before the Law of Moses was instituted was actually offered by a Midianite priest;

“And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God.”

Exodus 18:12

Moses' wife was the daughter of Jethro, who was a priest of the Midianites. This sacrifice, which he offered to the God of Moses his son-in-law, marked Jethro's conversion to the true God of Israel. Just before offering his sacrifice, Jethro, speaking of the miraculous victory over Amalec, said *“Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.”* Exodus 18:11

Over 2500 years had passed since the entrance of sin, and only seven instances of animal sacrifices were recorded in the scriptures. Certainly there may have been more, but in such insignificant numbers they did not qualify for mention in the sacred record. God had never required animal sacrifices of the children of Israel, but he did require faith and obedience of them. The institution of animal sacrifices by the Law of Moses was a witness against the children of Israel that they were *“a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction...”* Jeremiah 7:28.

This study does not take into account the sacrifices offered in the book of Job, as Job is not found in the lineage from Adam to Christ, nor has any connection to the children of Israel.

The Passover and Pentecost

When we think of “The Passover,” our minds go to the lamb that was slain in Egypt, whose blood, when sprinkled on the doorpost of their house, saved every Hebrew family from the wrath of God which came against Egypt during the night the death angel passed through the land. When we think of “Pentecost,” however, our minds go to the hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus who were filled with the Holy Ghost on “The Day of Pentecost.” We may be unaware of the fact that between the “Passover” in Egypt and the “Day of Pentecost” in the book of Acts, there had been almost 1500 “Passovers” celebrated, every one of them followed by an uneventful “Day of Pentecost.” Why was “the Day of Pentecost” in the book of Acts different from the many hundreds that had come before? Acts 2:1-4. The answer is found in what I call “the blood connection.” There is a definite connection between “the blood” of the Passover Lamb and “the power” of the Pentecost that followed.

The blood of the Passover lamb which was offered in Egypt was sufficient to deliver the people from Pharaoh’s bondage in Egypt, but it could not save them from the bondage of sin, which was in their heart and nature. Fifty days after the Passover, which is the real meaning of “Pentecost” (fiftieth day), the children of Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai to hear the voice of God when He spoke to them. God had given them a promise, if they would “*obey His voice, and keep His covenant,*” they would be His “*peculiar treasure,*” His “*kingdom of priests,*” and His “*holy nation*” Exodus 19:5-6.

A year before this day, God had spoken to Moses out of a “burning bush,” and now He would speak to the entire nation out of a “burning mountain.” God’s purpose in bringing them to Sinai was to pour His Spirit into them exactly as He did the hundred and twenty almost fifteen hundred years later, and they would become His “*kingdom of priests,*” and His “*holy nation*”

Exodus 19:6.

Something went horribly wrong that day at Sinai. They refused to even listen when God spoke. They cried to Moses, *“Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die”* Exodus 20:19. They chose to obey Moses if only God would not speak to them again Deuteronomy 5:27. This “choice” gave them “The Law of Moses,” which was imposed upon them as punishment for their refusal to hear God. As the apostle Paul confirmed, the Law *“...was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made”* Galatians 3:19. The Law of Moses was not the will of God for His people, as He said to Moses, *“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!”* Deuteronomy 5:29. The children of Israel had a “heart problem.” Less than two months later, Aaron, their “high priest,” fashioned a calf of gold for them to worship, saying, *“These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt”* Exodus 32:3-6. Certainly, the Children of Israel were neither God’s “kingdom of priests” nor His “holy nation.”

Each year, for the next 1500 years, the children of Israel offered another “Passover lamb,” and fifty days later, there followed another “Day of Pentecost,” both of which were nothing more than a memorial of things past. The young king Josiah offered 30,000 lambs and 3,000 bullocks at what was called the greatest Passover feast ever in Jerusalem, but not one drop of that “river of blood” could cleanse the heart of man. The only reason the children of Israel could not please God is revealed in the words of the apostle Paul; *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* Hebrews 10:4.

Christ, our Passover

Jesus Christ is *“the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. He is our *“Passover Lamb”* I Corinthians 5:7. His “blood” is “holy blood,” which He shed to purify the hearts of everyone who will “believe” and “trust in Him.” This

“purification” is what the scripture calls our “sanctification” Hebrews 13:12. The hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost were those whose hearts had been “purified” Acts 15:8-9 by faith in Jesus Christ and His precious blood. These were the first to become God’s “*kingdom of priests*” and His “*holy nation*” 1 Peter 2:9-10.

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, **which can never take away sins**: But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice** for sins **for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God.”* Hebrews 10:11-12

Consider the futility of being a priest who served under the Law to offer daily sacrifices which “*can never take away sin.*” Jesus Christ offered “*one sacrifice for sins forever,*” because His blood “*takes away sin*” and “*purifies the heart.*” The problem in the modern church is not in the sacrifice which was offered; it is that the sacrifice is not preached as what it was offered to do. Consider the futility of preaching a message that cannot deliver those who believe it, yet continuing to preach the same message for a lifetime. God will never, ever, “*pour out of His Spirit*” upon a church whose message is “*We are all sinners, who sin every day.*” For these, Christ died in vain, and they will be lost, because they have never trusted in Him who “*loved us, and gave Himself for us*” Galatians 2:20. The apostle John said, “*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins*” 1 John 3:5. Those who continue in sin have never seen or known Jesus Christ as He is, “*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29.

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

The words of this old gospel hymn are powerful and true. There is no other cleansing from sin. Sadly, the modern church has confused the blood of Jesus with the common blood of animals,

and the result is a “membership” that is unclean in heart and has no choice but to “continue in sin” Romans 6:1-2. Paul warned against this “devaluation” of the precious and holy blood of Christ in his epistle to the Hebrews:

“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:28-29

The blood of animals is common blood, and cannot “take away sin” Hebrews 10:4. The blood of Jesus Christ is “holy blood,” and “cleanses from all sin” everyone who believes the truth and trusts in Him. Those who have heard the truth of the gospel, and yet refuse to believe it bring against themselves the severest of God’s wrath.

“What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

The church of the 21st century is weak and sinful by its own confession. God will never pour out of His Spirit until it is “made whole again,” and nothing can do that but the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The children of Israel offered the common blood of animals to “cover their sins” for almost fifteen hundred years, and never saw the glory of Pentecost. Jesus offered His holy blood one time forever, not to “cover” sins but to “wash the people from their sins.” When the hearts of the worshipers are “purified by faith” Acts 15:8:9 “in His blood” Romans 3:25, the “church” will be whole again, and God will “pour out of His Spirit” upon those whose hearts are pure. We must preach the blood of Jesus Christ as the only remedy for the sin problem that is in the “church” today. Only when the church is “whole again,” will we see God pour out His Spirit upon His sons and daughters to gather the last harvest before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Only the holy blood of Jesus can “make us whole again.”

The Water and the Blood

by: Keith Surface

As his lifeless body hung upon the cross, a roman soldier took his spear and ran it into Jesus' side. From the opening caused by the spear, water and blood flowed out. This was very strange because once the heart has ceased to beat a body does not bleed. Nevertheless, John is adamant; it was water AND blood that flowed from the side of Jesus Christ. John 19:34. John continues, saying, "*And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true...*" John 19:35. Of course John saw the water and the blood, but in this statement he is speaking of someone witnessing this event who is much greater than John.

Over sixty years after the crucifixion of Christ, the apostle John is an old man and giving a written record of how we can know that we abide in Christ. I John 4:13. John is very clear, those who abide in Christ do not sin, they do righteousness, and they overcome the world. It is when speaking of those who overcome the world that John gives us the great source of their victory, saying "*This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood...*" I John 5:6. In this simple statement John lets us know that to come "*by Jesus Christ*" is to come by the water and blood that flowed from his pierced side. John reminds us that it wasn't just water that came forth that day, but water AND blood. The truth of what happened is so important that John reminds us "*And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*" I John 5:6.

The importance of both “*the water and the blood*” is revealed in the epistle to the Hebrews. The Law, having only a “*shadow of good things to come*” Hebrews 10:1, could only give us gray glimpses of the reality Christ would bring to us. At the heart of the Law’s ceremonial cleansing was both water and blood. The apostle said “...*almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*” Hebrews 9:22. The other important part of these cleansings were the “*divers washings*” Hebrews 9:10. Many different “*washings*” were required, both for the priest and the people; perhaps the foremost of these being the “*water of separation*” of which we will speak later.

The blood of goats and bulls, being only a foreshadow, could never take away sin. Hebrews 10:4. If it could, the worshipper would no longer have a “*conscience of sins*” (a sinful conscience). Hebrews 10:2. The conscience spoken of in the book of Hebrews is the “*moral consciousness.*” It is the inner thoughts and feelings of a person. The scripture is clear that the “*blood of Christ purges our conscience from dead works*” Hebrews 9:14 and “*sprinkles our heart from an evil conscience.*” Hebrews 10:22. In fact the sum of the message of the blood in the book of Hebrews is that “...*Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*” Hebrews 13:12. The blood of Christ was shed to purge us from the source of sin, which is the sinful conscience (the sinful nature). Only when your conscience is purged by the blood of Christ does your struggle with sin cease.

Under the Law, the purpose of the “*divers washings*” were a bit different than the sprinkling of the blood. While the blood ceremonially dealt with the iniquity of the people, the washings were more about dealing with filth and contamination. The priests would wash before entering the holy places or doing certain priestly services. There were washings for the people that in most cases seemed to deal primarily with public health

in keeping contaminations from being passed on to others. At the center of this was the “*water of separation.*”

The Law commanded the priest to offer a “*red heifer*” as a burnt offering. Then “*a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a **water of separation**: it is a purification for sin.*” Numbers 19:9. In calling this “*water of separation*” a “*purification for sin*” the Law was speaking of the reality that would one day come into being through the offering of Christ. The water of separation was used by Israel to cleanse the people who had come in contact with natural contaminates. Consider the following passage:

*“And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days. And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel: And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave: And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even. But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because **he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD**: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.”* Numbers 19:16-20.

Without having their bodies washed, the contaminated person was forbidden to enter the congregation lest they “*defile the sanctuary of the Lord.*” When a person is truly born of God,

their conscience is purged from sin, and sin is no longer their heart or nature. Yet their body had been the tool of iniquity and borne the contaminations of sin such as fornication, adultery, perversion, wrath, and many other like things. Many children of God rejoice that their heart has been purified, but still carry condemnation over the sins they once committed through their body. “Will my body which was once used for fornication be accepted into the holy presence of God?” “Can these hands that once smote in anger and hatred ever be instruments of righteousness before the Most High?” Some believers wonder if the contamination of sin is still present upon their fleshly members. “Am I defiling the sanctuary of the Lord with my presence?”

The apostle answers each of these questions in his simple exhortation to the children of God. He says, “*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***” Hebrews 10:19-22. It needs to be established in every child of God’s understanding that not only has Christ sprinkled their heart from an evil conscience, but he has also washed their body with pure water. He did this with the blood and water that flowed from his pierced side.

Finally the apostle Paul reminds us of this wonderful truth when speaking of those who shall not inherit the kingdom of God. He names fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, and doers of other similar things. He then speaks to the people of God saying, and such WERE some of you: but **ye are washed**, but **ye are sanctified**, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Corinthians 6:11. The water and the blood that flowed from the side of Christ has sanctified our hearts from sin and washed our bodies from its every contamination. Draw near into God’s presence “*with full assurance of faith!*”

The Blood that Speaks

by: Leroy Surface

In the book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul tells of two mountains. The first was Mt Sinai, an earthly mount that could be touched with hands, where God spoke audibly to His chosen people. *“Obey my voice and keep my covenant”* He said, *“and you will be my special people, above all people.”* Exodus 19:5-6 The mountain was on fire; the earth shook; thunders rolled; trumpets were pealing, and they heard the voice of God speaking. So fearful was the sight that the people refused to hear the voice of God, saying to Moses, *“Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”* Exodus 20:19. That generation never received the promise because they refused to hear God's voice. The earth *“shook”* that day, and that entire generation, with the exception of Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, were also *“shaken”* and *“moved out of the way”* Hebrews 12:27.

God's word speaks to our generation saying, *“You are come unto Mt Sion.”* Hebrews 12:22. The promise that was lost to those at Sinai is offered to those who gather to Mt Sion. Those who receive the voice that speaks there will be God's *“special people, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”* Paul tells us about this *“Mt Sion.”* It is *“the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem.”* In it is *“an innumerable company of angels; the general assembly and church of the firstborn.”* “God, the judge of all” is there, along with *“the spirits of just men made perfect”* Hebrews 12:23. Among these are Able, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and all others who *“died in faith”* Hebrews 11:13-16.

“Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant” is also there, and it is his blood that is speaking. Paul wrote that this *“blood of sprinkling ...speaketh better things than that of Abel.”* Hebrews 12:24 The blood that Abel *“sprinkled”* was the animal blood of his *“more excellent sacrifice,”* Hebrews 11:4 which spoke of a covering for sins. The blood of Jesus speaks of better things. It speaks of *“justification”* Romans 5:9 and *“sanctification.”* Hebrews 13:12 It speaks of *“cleansing from all sin”* IJohn 1:7, *“washing from sin”* Revelation 1:5, *“redemption”* Ephesians 1:7, *“purification”* Hebrews 9:13-14, *“pardon”* Romans 3:25, *“peace”* Colossians 1:20, *“entrance”* Hebrews 10:19, *“perfected in works”* Hebrews 13:20-21, and *“made to be overcomers”* Revelation 12:11.

Jesus warned, *“Take heed what you hear”* Mark 4:24. Always remember, *“There are many voices, but only one Word of God.”* The *“voice”* of the gospel is the blood of Jesus Christ, which was *“sprinkled”* to take sin out of the heart of man, and the *“voice”* of a true prophet is always *“the testimony of Jesus”* Revelation 19:10. In Mt Sinai, the *“voice”* was God, and the people refused to hear. The *“voice”* speaking from Mt Sion is the blood of Jesus Christ. *“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven”* Hebrews 12:25.

Modern day prophets warn of *“the great shaking,”* usually of mundane things like the crash of the stock market and the collapse of the American economy. These will come, but the *“prophets”* have prophesied visions of their own hearts when they call it the *“great shaking.”* Over four hundred years before Christ, the prophet Haggai prophesied, *“Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come”* Haggai 6-7. God said there would be *“one more shaking.”* The first shaking was at Sinai, and the last would be at Mount Sion. God shook the earth at Sinai. At Mount Sion,

the “*sprinkling*” of the blood of Jesus “*shook both heaven and earth;*” By it Satan was “*cast out of heaven*” Revelation 12:9-11, and “*the world was turned upside down*” Acts 17:6. But false teachers entered, denying “*the speaking of the blood,*” thus “*turning the grace of God into lasciviousness*” Jude 1:4. Their “gospel” made Christ to “*be of no effect*” Galatians 5:4 to all who believed it, and “*the truth*” Jesus said would “*make you free*” John 8:36 was lost for centuries. The “church” has been weak and sinful unto this day wherever the “speaking of the blood” is not heard.

My friend Betty Jean Robinson wrote a beautiful prophetic song titled “It’s Going to Rain Again.” This I know; the “*blood of Jesus*” will speak once more as the gospel of Christ is restored to the church. Every nation, kingdom, and religion will be “*shaken*” as the blood speaks through gospel preachers. The “fads of religion,” so popular in our generation, will be exposed for what they are. Those who cling to either “law” or “lasciviousness” will be shaken and removed. While many in the modern “church” are being shaken and removed, Hebrews 12:27 many in the heathen religions of the world will hear. The greatest harvest of souls will take place just before the return of Jesus Christ when the message which the blood speaks is heard once more.

“And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”

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