

*“I KNOW IT WAS THE BLOOD!!”*



## **I KNOW IT WAS THE BLOOD!!**

### **Leviticus 17:11:**

**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 an atonement for the soul.**

### **Hebrews 10:4:**

**For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

### **Hebrews 10:11-23:**

**11: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:**

**12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**

**13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.**

**14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

**15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,**

**16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**

**17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

### **Revelation 12:11:**

**11: 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**

**T**here are approximately four hundred and seventy-eight references to the word 'blood' in the Holy Bible. Three hundred and seventy-nine of them occur in the Old Testament, and ninety-nine may be found the New. In fact, there are many substances that are mentioned in the Bible, but I believe that blood is by far the most important of them all. For scripture tells us that 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' and that means that blood is the vehicle by which life is carried through the body. This is a known physical fact, but there is spiritual significance to the life-giving power of blood as well...

I have heard it said that our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ can be found on virtually every page of the Bible. We could very well say the same thing about blood. But one thing is certain- wherever there is blood in the Bible, you will find Christ. He is there in the animal skins that God made for Adam and Eve after they had sinned in the Garden. He is there on the night when the angel of death passed through Egypt, and killed everything that was first-born and not an Israelite. From the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant, to the redemptive work of Christ on the cross, the story of God's plan and purpose for bringing fallen man back to Himself is written in red. Red, of course, is the color of blood. Red is the color of sacrifice. And red is the color of love.

The prostitute Rahab hung a scarlet cord in her window behind the walls of Jericho, insuring the salvation of herself and her entire household. And that cord is a representation of a bloody thread that runs from Genesis to Revelation and into the hearts of all those who, like Rahab, will place their faith in its ability to cleanse them, protect them, and to save their souls. And so now, this 'issue of blood', if I may call it that, becomes personal. Now it's about you, about me, and about what our loving and faithful God has done that we who were once

separated and dead in trespasses and in sins might once again be reconciled with Him. And because this *is* a personal thing, I would like to use the words of my own personal testimony for my topic. And my personal testimony is that...

### **I KNOW IT WAS THE BLOOD!!**

Blood has a story to tell...and if I'm going to tell the story, I might as well begin...at the Beginning. And we know that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the Bible tells us that once God had created the heavens and the earth and all that is therein, God looked down upon all that He had made and declared that it was good. Whereupon God reached down into the dust of the ground and with His own hands created the first man, and He breathed into the man's nostrils, and man became, in the Hebrew language, a *nephesh*, which means that he became a "*breathing creature*", or a living soul. Genesis 2:8-9 tells us what happened next: "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." It was then that God gave Adam and Eve a particular set of instructions. God told them that they were to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." In other words, God had given Adam complete stewardship over the earth. Yet there was one prohibition. Notice this was the only thing that God had told Adam that he could *not* do. "There is a tree," God said, speaking of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, "there is a tree...in the midst of the garden. Of all the trees in the garden, you may freely eat, but the day that you eat of *that* tree, you shall surely die." Look at somebody, if you will, and tell them, "*watch out for that tree!*"

Let me point out here that there was nothing different about that tree except that God had *said* so, and that the only thing that made eating from that tree wrong was that God had *said* that it was wrong, and that automatically *made* it wrong. We must always remember that in every situation, what matters is not what we think, but *what God says*. In his book *Spiritual Authority*, the great Chinese missionary, writer and preacher Watchman Nee puts it this way. Listen to what he says:

*“The principle of good and evil is to live according to what is right or what is wrong. Before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit their right and wrong were in God's hand. If they did not live before God they knew nothing at all, for their right and wrong actually were in God. By taking the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they found a source of right and wrong in other than God Himself. Consequently after the fall men need not find in God the sense of right and wrong. They have it in themselves. This is the result of the fall. The work of redemption is to bring us back to the place where we will now find our right and wrong in God.”*

What are you saying, Brother Preacher? What I'm saying is that when Adam disobeyed God, it was as if he'd decided for himself what was good for him, as if somehow he knew what he needed better than God did. And isn't that what *we* do? For in Romans the fourth chapter and the twelfth verse we read the terrible results of Adam's rebellion: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And that's why we're living in a time when everybody's doin' whatever they think they're bad enough to do. Men are getting married to men. Ladies are getting married to ladies, and when we see 'em walking down the street holding hands, when we see them on

television kissing each other, instead of rebuking that mess, we say, "Well, if they're *happy*, then it must be alright." There was a song out in the seventies, a man named Billy Joel said something like this: "*I don't care what you say anymore, this is MY life...*" Y'all don't hear me, but I've come to tell you...and I would tell Billy Joel if *he* were here that the devil *is* a liar! It's *not* my life. It's not *your* life, either. Everything I have...it belongs to God! For I hear the voice of Jeremiah crying, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." We don't know what's good for us! We don't know what's right for us! Only God knows what we need, and what we don't need! The reason Christ went to the cross was so that we could be reconciled to the One who knows everything about everybody! For it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves! Somebody look at somebody and say, "It's In The Blood!!"

Well, Adam sinned, and when a man sins, the first thing that happens is he finds himself ashamed, and that makes him want to *hide*. The Bible tells us that when Adam and Eve saw that they were naked, they got scared, so they took fig leaves, sewed them together, and they used them to *cover* themselves. What they did, in fact, is that they invented *religion*. You see, according to James 1:17, there's good religion, and there's *bad* religion. Bad religion is the things that man does to cover up his sin. Bad religion is the things that a guilty man does that make him think that he really does have fellowship with God. Bad religion is the things that he does to soothe his burning conscience. I know that some of us are good people, and we do a lot of good things, but it does not matter how long you've been in the church. It does not matter how many tithes you've paid. It does not matter how many pews you bought. It does not matter how many hungry folks you feed, or how many old ladies you walk across the street. If you do not have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, you're just as lost as Adam was in *his* fig leaves. Somebody look at somebody and say, "It's In The Blood!!"

Notice here that God took away Adam's fig leaves, and He gave him and Eve animal skins to cover their nakedness. In other words, God showed them that *their* way would not work, and that they had to do it *His* way. This same principle applies to us today in that we are always trying to find our own way to get right with God. When will we learn that there is nothing that we can do except *trust* Him? So God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins. Now in order to really understand what God had done, we need to apply some *logic* here. In order for those animals to give up their skin to cover Adam and Eve, something had to be killed. For the wages of sin was, and still is, *death*. In other words, some *blood* had to be shed. You will find that same bloody pattern throughout the Bible. Every time some blood was shed, it was a typology of the Christ who was to come and shed His blood one time for all time for the remission of our sins. For without the shedding of blood, there can *be* no remission. I know I we said it once, and we said it twice, but I think we ought to say it again: "It's In The Blood!!"

Well, as time went on, God spoke to a man named Abraham, and He promised him that through his seed all the nations of the world would be blessed. Through Abraham, God raised up Israel, and through Israel would come the Messiah who would deliver the entire human race from its sins. God gave Israel a system of sacrifices, whereby men would be able to enter into His presence. In Leviticus the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the Bible talks about the Day of Atonement, when the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies with the blood of bulls and goats and sprinkled it upon the Mercy Seat, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. But that was not an effective system, because it only *covered* sins for the moment, and therefore they had to keep going back year after year, and doing the same thing over and over again, because the blood of bulls and of goats cannot take away sin.

It was a *man* who had originally sinned. Therefore, it was going to take a man to make the atonement for sin. But this man had to be a holy man. This man had to be a righteous man. He had to be a man in whom there was no darkness whatsoever. Well, there was nobody down here who could do it, because Romans 3:10 tells us that “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” and Romans 3:23, says that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” So everybody who applied for the job got his or her application thrown into the trash bin! Abraham, Moses, David, and the Prophets...all of them passed through the pantheon of time, but nobody was qualified for the position. Jesus- Holy God and perfect man- shed His blood once for all time for the remission of our sins. The cross became the mercy seat, and the Son of God was the sacrifice. And because God Himself was His own sacrifice, it only had to be done *one* time. Somebody look at somebody and say, “*If you want something done, sometimes you’ve gotta do it yourself!*”

Not only that, but if we were able to go behind the veil, if we were able to look into the Holy of Holies, we would find that there was no place for the High Priest to *sit*. And this was because his job was never done. For the Bible tells us that the High Priest stood *continuously*, making sacrifice for the sins of the people. He had to stand...because his job was never done! Jesus on the cross...said “It is finished!” And because it *was* finished, He sat down on the right hand of the Father. And because it was finished, the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins! Hebrews 9:13-14 tells us, “For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Somebody say, “The Blood can do the job”! One time...for all time...Jesus did it...that we might have a right...to the tree of Life! Say Yeah! Say Yeah! The blood...has never lost its power! The blood...can do

**anything but fail! The blood...will make you live right! The blood...will make you treat folks right! The blood...will make you get up off a barstool! The blood...will make you go home...and love your *own* wife!! The blood...will make you give back what you stole! Somebody look at somebody and say "It's in the Blood!!" Say Yeah!!**

**I know that some of us...are gonna make it in... 'cause we've been good.... 'cause we've been holy... 'cause we've been sanctified...but I don't know about you...but my faith...is in the blood...my hope...is in the blood...my trust...is in the blood...Say yeah!**

**...and I heard...an ol' pastor say...that *everybody* uses an eraser...but what I like...about the blood ...is that when the blood erases...sin STAYS erased!! Say yeah! Say yeah!**

**What can wash away my sins??? NOTHING but the blood of Jesus!!**

**What the Blood of Christ does for the believer:**

- a. Rahab: "I Know..." (**Josh. 2:9**)
- b. Faith in the power of the Blood gives us:
  - **victory** (*Rev. 12:11*): "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."
  - **healing** (*Is. 53:5*): "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
  - **access** (*Eph. 2:13*): "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

**(Heb. 4:16):** "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

- **fellowship** (*1 Jn 1:7*): "But 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."
- **protection** (*Ex. 12:13*): "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."

**Tell somebody else about the blood!!**

- a. (**Rev. 12:11**): "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."

**Exhortation:**

**The Gospel Message- "Thank God for the blood!!"**

*"There is a fountain*

*Filled with blood,*

*Drawn from Immanuel's veins.*

*Sinners, plunged beneath that flood*

*Lose all their guilty stain!"*

**Song: (Medley) "There Is Power..." "O' The Blood..." " I Know It Was The Blood..."**

**Supporting Scriptures:**

**Genesis 3:7:**

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

**Genesis 3:21:**

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

**Exodus 30:10:**

And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it

**Hebrews 9:24-26:**

For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

**9:25**

Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

**9:26**

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Hebrews 4:15:**

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 9:13- 14:**

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

**9:14**

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?