

THE VALUE OF THE BLOOD

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READING

John 6:53-56 Amplified Bible.	John 6:53-56
<p>53 And Jesus said to them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, you cannot have any life in yourselves <i>unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood</i> - unless you appropriate His life and [the saving merit of] His blood. 54 He who feeds¹ on My flesh and drinks my blood has (possesses now) eternal life; and I will raise him up [from the dead] at the last day. 55 For My flesh is true and genuine food;² and My blood is true and genuine drink. 56 He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood, dwells continually in me, and I [in like manner dwell continually] in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live by the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me - who takes me for his food and is nourished by Me - shall [in his turn] live through and because of me.</p>	<p>Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.</p> <p>⁵⁵“For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.</p> <p>⁵⁷“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.³</p>

INTRODUCTION

I wonder if this analogy that Jesus makes has a Scriptural precedent or basis?

LEV 17:10 “ Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood--I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. 11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. 12 Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood."

LEV 17:13 “ Any Israelite or any alien living among you who hunts any animal or bird that may be eaten must drain out the blood and cover it with earth, 14 because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, "You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off."

Jesus draws on an analogy to explain his relationship to His people as He did in John 4:13-14 when he spoke to the woman at the well. It would seem from verse 57 that Jesus was ‘life dependant’ on the Father just as we are ‘life dependant’ on Him.⁴

Why would Jesus blatantly and provocatively ask people to ‘drink His blood’ when the Old Testament so clearly forbade them to do so? What was the reason they were forbidden to eat / drink the blood? Wasn’t it because the life of the animal was in the blood in the blood and by eating **His** flesh and drinking **His** blood we get to participate in His life – eternal life.

¹ Continually meditates on and appropriates what the blood has accomplished.

² Giving spiritual nourishment to our spiritual life!

³ *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴ John 10:17-18 “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

THE BLOOD IS VITAL TO OUR REDEMPTION

Heb. 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.⁵

There could be no New Covenant without the shedding of Jesus blood – It is the seal of the Covenant, *the conclusive, irrefutable evidence of Jesus' death!*⁶ It's the only way that our sin and iniquity can satisfactorily removed.

Those who despise the blood will have no part in it.⁷

Heb. 10:26-29 For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?⁸

THE BLOOD IS NOT A PROTECTIVE SHIELD!

There is a belief based on a tradition that some people hold to. This tradition is the concept of 'pleading the blood' or 'covering unbelievers (and believers) with the blood' for protection. I want to show you that it is a concept that does not have its origin in Scripture. The blood never was and never has been a protection against the enemy.

I want to take you through the Scriptures and show you what the blood really does accomplish for us and show you why it borders on being dangerous to 'plead the blood' in the way these people do.⁹

The blood is far more powerful and efficacious¹⁰ than what some people fearfully think and practice!¹¹

HERE ARE A FEW COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE VERSES.

Eph. 6:16 Our faith in the name of Jesus is all the shield we need. Because of what His blood has accomplished for us He was given a name above all names!

Ex. 12:13 The blood protected the "covered"¹² the Old Testament Israelites **from the wrath of God**¹³ not from the Devil or one of the Devil's angels!¹⁴

Rom. 5:9 The blood of Jesus **protects us from God's wrath** against our sin!¹⁵

Rev. 12:11 We overcome (conquered) him¹⁶ by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to their life even when faced with death - holding their lives cheap till they had to die [for their witnessing] Amplified Bible.

5 *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

6 Jesus' blood is the equivalent of His death certificate!!

7 This is a scary passage because it means that if we count the blood of Jesus as ineffectual then there is no salvation for us.

8 *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

9 To "plead" the blood of Jesus as the origin of your righteousness and your ability to stand in the presence of God is quite valid, but the person to whom you would be doing this is God himself in Jesus!

10 = effective or potent!

11 If what I am saying is incorrect then the apostles and the saints of the book of Acts missed out, because they never made the blood their means of protection from the enemy the way these people do.

12 It was Israel, not the Egyptians that were protected from the wrath of God because of the blood covering!

13 Israel wasn't any better than the Egyptians as far as being right in God eyes was concerned. The only difference was that God had a covenant with Abraham that He intended to keep. His purpose was to bring forth a nation that would bring forth the Messiah who would save both Israelite and non-Israelite (gentile) to Himself. Romans 3:23 says for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God!

14 Even if the "Angel of Death" were an Angel from the Kingdom of Darkness, he was subject to God's control. The blood still protected them from God's wrath!

15 Hebrews 10:31 tells us that it's a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

16 the accuser of our brethren (the Enemy) **by being cleansed in the blood.**

Ex 12:23 The Lord will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.¹⁷ God has loosed “the destroyer” but exercises strict control over him. He can’t touch or harm us eternally because of what the blood has achieved for us and in us! “Destroyer” literally means decay. Hence this is saying “decay will not enter your house or strike you down!”

WHAT JESUS’ BLOOD PURCHASED FOR EACH OF US...

1. FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION.

Eph. 2:13; The blood of Jesus brings us right into God’s presence.¹⁸ The Blood of Jesus takes us beyond the veil, right into God’s immediate presence.

Heb. 12:24 The blood of Jesus does what the blood of Old Testament sacrifices could not do - it removes the sin nature and the stain of sin from our life and gives us Jesus’ life!

2. A MERCY SEAT; PROPITIATION AND RECONCILIATION

It’s God’s provision to shield us from **His** wrath. (mentioned 585 times in Old Testament)¹⁹

Rom. 3:25 God presented him as a (mercy seat) sacrifice of redemption, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished ²⁰

God demonstrated His justice when He poured out His wrath on Jesus who was bearing our sins. In this way the blood of Jesus shields us from God’s wrath - Jesus received the wrath of His Father, we get to go free as we trust in that blood shed on our behalf to the degree that we appropriate it! 1Cor. 5:21

1John 1:7 The blood cleanses us when we walk in the light.

3. REDEMPTION

Eph. 1:7; We have redemption²¹ through His blood the forgiveness of sins.

Col. 1:14; Our sin is removed by the blood making redemption possible.

1Pet. 1:18-19; We have been redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus.

Rev. 12:11 We overcome the enemy by cleansing ourselves in Jesus’ blood.

4. REMOVAL OF OUR SIN

In Leviticus it tells us about two major blood sacrifices, one for a sin offering and the other for trespass offering. A trespass is when you know you are breaking a law and sin is when you do something wrong but didn’t realise you were.

Heb. 9:14; The blood purges us from dead works²² (removes the dead works from us).

Rev. 7:14 Washing our “robes” in the blood removes the sin stains.

5. CLEANSING FROM OUR GUILT AND SIN

Psa. 32:5; God cleanses us from guilt through His blood. (Read in the New American Standard Bible)²³

1John 3:21; Because we have been cleansed by the blood our consciences are clear before God. Our debt has been paid, we are forgiven, pardoned, free to approach God boldly!

1John 1:7; The blood cleanses our consciences as we walk together ‘in the light’ as brethren in Christ ‘as He[Himself] is in the light.’²⁴

¹⁷ Jesus “The Lord” who will not allow the destroyer to strike us! It’s His name that is a strong and mighty tower into which the ‘righteous’ run!

¹⁸ Jesus’ blood is the key where by we have access into the Father’s presence.

¹⁹ A ‘mercy seat’ or a propitiation is something that closes the gap between two offended parties. Jesus did this by shedding His blood. The ‘mercy seat’ was the top of the ‘ark of the covenant’ the lid where the blood of the Passover lamb was poured out each year.

²⁰ The Greek word is translated propitiation in Hebrews 2:17 (ASV) and 1 John 2:2; and 4:10 (KJV) NIV incorrectly translates it “atoning sacrifice” the word reconciliation is more appropriate as in the KJV for Hebrews 2:1.

²¹ To be bought back by the one who created us and now owns us through His work on the cross.

²² Works that lead to death and putting our trust in our own self effort thinking that somehow they can assist us in the redemptive process.

²³ Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

²⁴ This means we will be quick to repent and ask forgiveness of our brothers and sisters whom we offend from time to time.

Heb. 9:9,14 The blood cleanses our conscience from guilt, liberating us to fulfil the Master's commission with confidence rather than as some sort of obligation.

6. AN EMPOWERED CONSCIENCE TO OPPOSE THE SIN IMPULSE.

Heb. 9:14 The blood purges²⁵ our conscience so we can be sensitive to God's desire.²⁶

7. JUSTIFICATION

Rom. 5:9; Being justified²⁷ by His blood we shall be saved from the wrath (*of God against sin*) through Him (Jesus).

(Titus 3:7) We have been justified by the grace²⁸ that the blood makes available.

8. PARTNERSHIP IN THE NEW COVENANT

1Cor. 10:16; By taking communion we become partners of the new covenant.²⁹

Heb. 8:6 God has called us into partnership in an unconditional covenant.³⁰

9. RIGHTEOUSNESS

2Cor. 5:21; Jesus' blood cleanses us and makes us righteous in God's sight.

Rev. 7:11-14 These are they who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb and have made them white!³¹

Rev. 19:8. The "Bride" makes herself ready by washing her self and her robes in the blood of the Lamb. (The result of washing their robes in the blood was that their garments were white as snow!)

10. PEACE THROUGH RECONCILIATION

Col. 1:20 Jesus reconciled³² us to Himself and made peace with us by His blood.

11. THE BLOOD GIVES US ACCESS AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

Heb. 10:19 The blood gives us confidence to enter the holy of holies. (Because we are made righteous by the blood, we have confidence to enter God's holy presence.)

11. SANCTIFICATION - SEPARATION FOR A SPECIFIC TASK OR PURPOSE.

Don't treat the blood lightly - it sanctifies³³ you.

Heb. 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 34

Heb. 13:12 Jesus suffered outside the gate³⁵ to sanctify us to God.

13. RESURRECTION LIFE AND THE ABILITY TO LIVE IT.

Heb. 13:20-21 Jesus was raised to new life by His blood of the Everlasting Covenant. This gives us power to live in the same overcoming power.

14. THE PRIVILEGE TO BE GOD'S WITNESSES HERE ON EARTH.

1John 5:8 Three bear witness in earth the spirit, water and the blood.

Rev. 12:11 They overcame the enemy because of what the blood of The Lamb has achieved and through agreeing with what God has said about them.

²⁵ Purges = cleanses!

²⁶ Without the weight of guilt and sin hampering us we can walk confidently and victoriously in our daily life.

²⁷ Justified means to be made righteous or in this case to be brought into right standing with God!

²⁸ The Blood of Jesus makes God's grace available to us. This is the grace that saves us as it says in Ephesians 2:5.

²⁹ We drink the blood of His covenant signifying that we are willing partners in this new covenant. (arrangement)

³⁰ God has fulfilled every part of the New Covenant so that we can walk in it with confidence of it being fulfilled in our lives.

³¹ Interesting that the blood makes our robes white and not blood red.

³² To reconcile means to "balance the accounts". The Blood of Jesus balanced the accounts for us. Another meaning is to make two different things equal. The Father has made us equal to Jesus by the blood of Jesus.

³³ Makes us special to God. The word 'sanctify' means to separate for our own use or in this case we are sanctified to God's exclusive use.

³⁴The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³⁵ He was despised and rejected "outside the gate"!

CONCLUSION

Lev. 17:11 Everything Jesus' **life** meant to the Father, Jesus now, gives to us through His blood. It's as we daily apply what the blood has accomplished [through our believing and profession of it being ours] to our lives that we have abundant life.³⁶

THIS IS WHAT JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR!!!

These are the Scriptures that we have about the blood and what it achieves for us. We need to know them and what they say so we can utilise the power of the blood of Jesus correctly and not be caught by the enemy trying to use it for things it was never meant to be used for.

³⁶ 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness