The Blood

When God created Adam, he was given herbs and vegetables to eat and water to drink. He was not given animals to eat. However, after Adam sinned, it was necessary for God to clothe him and his wife Eve since they had realised that they were naked. All they could do was to cover themselves from what God had provided for them, which were plants. So they covered themselves with fig leaves. God sent them out of the Garden of Eden before they could reach for the tree of life and live forever in perpetual sin against God. Outside the Garden of Eden, God clothed them with tunic made of animal skin.

Without doubt, animal skin came from an animal which had been slain. The blood of this animal atoned (covered) the sin (nakedness) of Adam and Eve.

God does not eat flesh of animals. Therefore the flesh of the animal was burned up.

“For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29. This procedure was the precursor of burnt sacrifices for sins committed while the blood of the animal burned up outside the camp served the purpose of covering sins before God to enable the people of Israel to experience the presence of God for one year at a time. God gave these instructions to Moses because that was what He did for Adam and his wife outside the Garden of Eden.

What the fig leaf (plant) could not do in atoning for the sin of Adam and Eve, the blood of the slain animal whose skin was used to cover their nakedness, did. Adam must have related the whole incident to his sons.

“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the first born of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen?’ If you do well will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at your door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Genesis 4:3 to 7.

Abel knew he had to burn the animal he offered to God and God said that he did well. Cain on the other hand was told by God that if he had done well would he not have been accepted? Cain knew that he did not do the right thing.

The Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world in the Old Testament was the Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world in the New Testament. For the Lamb to be slain meant that the blood has been shed. Without the shedding of the blood, there will be no forgiveness of sin. Rev 13v8 Heb 9v22

The forgiveness of sin can only refer to created beings who have sinned. God has condemned sin in the flesh over 2000 years ago but before then God had indicated it and accomplished it from the foundation of the world that He will condemn sin in the flesh so that it will not exist in the new creation.

The point is taken that this world was created for the purpose of getting rid of sin and that has already happened. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary in Golgotha because He had to die and that was the reason why He came into the world in order to put an end to sin. This was why the blood has been very significant in this creation. The blood that God had planned to shed to obliterate sin was the blood of the Lamb
of God. That could only happen if the image of God was contaminated with sin by Satan. So, there has to be the creation of the image of God and that was Adam. The condemnation of sin had to be done in the flesh.

Of all the beings in heaven, Lucifer (Satan) was the first to choose to be an agent of sin and a third of the angels in heaven, followed him. Isaiah 14v12-15 They were later defeated by Michael and his angels and cast Satan down from heaven to the earth. Satan had his will and his right to choose and he used them accordingly. Since God gave all the beings their will and their right to choose, there can be no problem with that if they were no longer in heaven where the will of God has to be done. They could not be justifiably opposed to get rid of sin outside of heaven. Therefore, for God to get rid of sin, He had to create beings that would have the same opportunity to exercise their God given will and right to choose to obey or disobey God.

To make it all very personal, God created man in His own image and breath into him the breath of life and man became a living being. The whole plan was to see if Satan would attack man to take him over for himself. Not if but when he did, then God will had the total right to reclaim man back from Satan for Himself and imposing whatever penalty He saw necessary for such action - taking for himself what rightfully belongs to God.

Man was not bait for Satan to attack but it was a calculated plan of God to get rid of sin, Satan and all his angels. Even if the man should decide to follow after Satan, God still has the right over all that belong to Him, to destroy or to preserve. He can even choose to forgive them of their sins against Him. Whatever God did and whichever way He did it, He had the right to claim man back for Himself.

We do not know how many times God had created man in the past before Adam but He did not find anyone to work with until He finally found Enoch and his great grandson Noah who found grace in the eyes of God.

The blood line had been drawn from the foundation of the world. The Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8) pointed to the truth that the Lamb of God had been set apart to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29) by a cruel and violent death. It was clear that God had purposed to obliterate sin from His creation right from the foundation of the world billions of years ago regardless of the cost. All He needed was one person to co-operate with Him in His purpose after they had multiplied according to the blessing He had blessed them with. God finally found that person – Noah.

It was only 2000 years ago that He fulfilled His own purpose when Yeshua haMashiach died for the sin of the world and on the third day, He rose from the dead to justify as many as believe in Him. When Christ was crucified on the cross, His blood was shed for us and that was why we were forgiven.

“… according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness).” Hebrews 9:22.

God stipulated the blood of the Lamb of God to be the means by which all flesh would receive forgiveness of sins but this was not the case for spirits (angels and the like). Therefore in order to condemn sin in the flesh, God had made provision only for all flesh that will willingly choose to believe in His Son to receive forgiveness of sin. So, it can be concluded that this earth was created for the removal of sin in the physical realm from all human beings.

As far as God was concerned, the life of the flesh is in the blood (Genesis 9:4). To be able to condemn sin in the flesh, knowing full well that the flesh could have sinned, God chose the application of blood to be the key factor in fulfilling His purpose against sin. When God found Noah who was conceived and born in sin like everyone else and committed Himself to work with him and work through him, He had to follow His own
principles: He had to commit Himself only by covenant and not without blood. So there is a spiritual connection between blood and the making of covenants under God’s terms.

So what is blood covenant?
A covenant is an agreement. A blood covenant is therefore an agreement that God has made with flesh and blood (that is, human beings conceived and born in sin) as recorded in the Scripture, which is binding and must not be broken. For this reason, a blood covenant must of necessity have conditions attached to it and which must be fully understood and agreed to, by both parties. An agreement between God and man follows the same principle which God had established from the foundation of the world.

God Himself does not need to shed blood to agree to do whatever He has purposed to do from His heart. He is faithful to the uttermost. Whatever God says that is what He will do and whatever God has done that is what He has said. **His words are His works and His works are His words.** John 14:10. However, when He makes a covenant with human beings, He remains faithful but we are not as faithful as He is. So the covenant He makes with humans has to go via the shedding of blood in order to make it binding on our part so that God can act fully on His principles with justice and judgement.

One of the lessons humans have to learn is that God takes all covenants that He makes very seriously especially those made with blood. The life of the flesh is in the blood and no one can create life except God alone. The life of an animal represents the work of His hands and that is why He takes it very seriously. God takes all the work of His hands very seriously. In the Old Testament, when the blood was shed for offerings or for food, it had to be disposed of according to the instructions God gave to Moses.

The voice of the blood
Whenever blood is shed, the voice of the blood speaks to God and God responds. He always responds accordingly because God alone hears the voice of the blood and so He knows what to do in response to what the blood is saying. Gen 4v10 Heb 12v24 It should be borne in mind that the justice of God is non-negotiable. He will respond to whatever the blood says because it has been shed, that is, death has occurred and that is irreversible. In other words, the life which God has put in has been taken out. There has to be a good reason for that to happen.

Whenever blood is shed it is either in the will of God or against the will of God. If the blood of anyone is shed unjustly, that is against the will of God, only the blood of the murderer can atone for the blood he or she or it (if it is an animal) has shed. Whenever the blood is shed, God alone knows whether it should be shed in the way it has been shed. If it has been shed wrongfully, the blood will make demands for justice and God will certainly act accordingly. Whenever the blood is shed, justice from God comes swiftly. There should be no doubts about this. If we understand these spiritual principles of God, it will enhance our spirituality immensely. If we don’t know these principles, we will run into difficulties and into unnecessary danger because of the weighty judgement and justice of God. “As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgement and abundant justice; He does not oppress.” Job 37:23.

You must NOT eat the blood of any animal or bird nor things strangled.
This Old Testament teaching is upheld in the New Testament. Acts 15 22-29 So when the blood of an animal or bird is shed for food, there was a procedure to follow in the Old Testament in disposing of the blood. The animal or bird had to be drained of its blood and the drained blood had to be covered with dust.
The blood of the animal or bird must not be eaten.
“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of the man” Genesis 9:3,4,5.

Animals and herbs were given for food for Noah and his family and for their descendants after them.

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the alter to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’ Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour its blood and cover it with dust; for it is the life of the of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is in its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.” Leviticus 17:11-14. Here God said that He has given the children of Israel the blood for atonement for their souls.

God has also given us the animals and herbs for food. You can be a vegetarian if you like or you can eat both meat and herbs as much as you like. Food will not commend you to God.

However, the blood of the animal was given to the Jews only for the atonement for their sins. God gave the blood for atonement for the souls of the Jews until the Messiah came whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of the sin of the world. The blood of animals was used to cover the sin of Israel yearly so that God could move among His people until Messiah, the Lamb of God came to take away the sin of the world as it was written of Him. The Lamb of God was slain and with His blood of God He has freed us from our sins. Rev1v5

To eat the blood is to eat life. This is an offence to God. God gave life and He alone has the right to take it, no one else. To take life and use the blood for anything else other than what God has commanded is a punishable offence. Only the Jews were allowed to use blood for atonement of their sins, no-one else.

Since the Lord Jesus Christ came and His blood was shed for us, the use of the blood of animal in Israel has been terminated; which was the end of sacrifices according to the Law of Moses. Daniel 9:24 – 27. “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans10:4.

The power of the blood
There is power in the blood. The power in the blood of an animal was for atonement for the sin of Israel. That was the reason God gave Israel the blood sacrifice when He gave them the Law.

Sin takes advantage of the commandment of God to produce all manner of evil desire in people. For apart from the law sin was dead. Romans 7:8. This is because the sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 1 Corinthians 15:56. However, it could not take away their sins. It only covered the sins of Israel just for one year to enable Israel to walk with the only God, the creator of heaven and earth. So it was called yearly sacrifice. It could not put an end to sin either. The will of God is to put an end to sin according to His purpose. The life of an innocent animal given to cover sin is important to God. It was God who started it when He covered Adam and Eve with the skin of animal and the blood covered their sin so that God could communicate with them.

Animals have no sin but as they are not humans, this was why their blood was used to cover sin for humans. In order to be able to condemn sin in the flesh, the flesh sacrificed had to be human flesh and without sin. Anyone born of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, would not qualify to take away the sin

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of the world. The only one to qualify to take away the sin of the world is the one who was not born of the blood of man, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man; but God Himself in human flesh with the blood of God in Him. This is the only blood that has the ultimate power to obliterate sin. God never asked for human sacrifice for the atonement of sin because no human blood can atone for sin. The blood of all human has been contaminated with sin already; it cannot even atone for itself let alone for anyone else. For the Word of God to come from the Father into this world to take away the sin of the world is the greatest privilege bestowed upon man. By virtue of the truth that Christ had no sin He was able to take away the sin of the world into death, put it away and rise from the dead the third day. If He had sin, it would have been impossible for Him to rise from the dead because God had said, “The soul who sins shall die.” Ezekiel 18:4. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things (that is, forgiveness) than the blood of Abel that spoke of vengeance.

To Summarise:

- The blood of the Lord Jesus has made salvation possible by its reconciliatory and redemptive power. It is the blood of God that obliterates sin to such an extent that once anyone is forgiven of his or her sin, that one is also justified, just as if he or she had never sinned. It is the blood that sanctified us, setting us apart for Him. It is the blood of our communion with Him. It is the blood of victory that enables us to have eternal life. It is the blood of the New Testament, the new agreement with God. It is blood that cleanses us from sins and made us whole.

- The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world and not without the blood that freed us from sin. That was the start of the blood line which was drawn from the foundation of the world right to when it was physically shed over two thousand years ago for the sin of the world.

- This signified the unchangeable purpose of God to get rid of sin from His creation. This was why the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to take away the sin of the world. In the final analysis, Death including sin in it and Hades (Hell) will be cast into the lake of fire in the second death. That will be the end of sin which has been before the foundation of the world.

- Between the slaying of the Lamb from the foundation of the world until the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world was slain over two thousand years ago, the blood of animals was introduced to humans and finally to the nation of Israel for the covering of sin so that God may continue with them.

- The human race was forgiven of all their sins because the blood of God was shed when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary for the sin and the sins of the world and rose up from the dead the third day.

- Since then the blood has and will never lose its power to free from sin those who confess and repent of their sins. This will continue forever and ever until the new order of things.

The blood as a witness

The death of Jesus was the most important death ever. It was the death which destroyed the plan of Satan against humanity. It was the death by which sin was taken away from the world into death.
It was the death which destroyed the devil.
It was the death which preceded the glorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
To those who could not believe that Jesus actually died on the cross of Calvary, it was necessary to produce the evidence. One of the proofs was blood and water. When He died, one of the Roman soldiers came and pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Without the shedding of the blood of God there would be no remission (forgiveness) of sin. Hebrews 9v22

These are the words of a song which is dedicated to the blood of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus
The blood of the Lord
The blood of Jesus
That was shed
The blood of the new agreement
Agreement with God
That everyone in Jesus has life

Chorus
It is the blood of victory
The blood of power
It is the blood of glory
That was shed
It is the blood of freedom
Freedom from sin
It is the blood
That made me whole

(The tune can be found in a separate sound file named “The Blood of Jesus”)

The Blood, the Water and the Spirit – the three Witnesses

The water is a witness. In 1 John 5:8 it says,
“And there are three that bear witness on earth; the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.”

Jesus Christ came by water in River Jordan. John said,
“I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” John 1:33 and 34. “When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21&22.

By water, the Lord Jesus was revealed to Israel as,
“The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Also when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, His side was pierced in order to make sure that He was dead. Immediately blood and water came out from His side as a proof that He had died. The blood was a
witness that the sin of the world was forgiven and that mankind has been reconciled to God because of the blood that was shed for us. It was the blood of God that was shed and it is the only blood that could cleanse from sin.

No man could have been able to save himself let alone another. The blood of man could not save anyone because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom 3v23 We needed someone to be born of woman and yet have no sin. So the Word of God became flesh and did what no one else could do. He gave His life for us and His blood is still in the sanctuary of heaven to make sure that our sins are forgiven.

Praise be to His wonderful name!

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