

The Precious Blood of Christ

Introduction: 1 Peter 1:18-20 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **20** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Precious-

1. *Of great price; costly; as a precious stone.*
2. *Of great value or worth; very valuable.*
3. *Highly valued; much esteemed.*

I. The Life is in the Blood

- A. **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.
1. The extent of this truth from a natural perspective could not have been entirely understood by this generation to whom it was revealed.
 2. However, modern medicine and science have demonstrated its accuracy even on a molecular level. Blood delivers oxygen and other life giving nutrients to practically every living cell in our body. As is so often the case with God, we will see how the natural world was created in such a manner that it would reflect spiritual truth.
- B. **Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
1. The penalty of sin is death
 2. If the life is in the blood, any substitutionary sacrifice would require the shed blood of the sacrificial party

Seeing then that Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world to be a sacrifice for sin, we can look to the Old Testament account and see how God was preparing the world for the New Testament fulfillment that would come in the "fullness of time."

II. The Passover

A. The Passover is Instituted

Exodus 12:12-13 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. **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.

1. The Lamb was to be a male of the first year without spot or blemish.
2. It was to live with the people from the 10th day of the month till the 14th day.
3. It was to be killed before the “whole assembly of the congregation of Israel.”
4. It was to be roasted by fire and consumed and nothing of it should remain until morning.
5. They were to “strike it (the blood) on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses.”

If they kept the passover as commanded God promised he would “pass over” their homes and the plague upon the firstborn would not destroy them.

B. The Deficiency of Animal Sacrifice

1. **Hebrews 10:1-4** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. **2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **3** But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
2. The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were only valuable in that they foreshadowed a “better sacrifice”. Why were they not sufficient?
 - a. Their blood was not “precious”. God does not place the same value on animal life as human life.
 - b. The animal was not capable of voluntarily offering its life.
 - c. It was not a worthy exchange of life.

C. Christ; The Lamb of God

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1. As the paschal lamb was a male of the first year without blemish, Christ, the only begotten Son of God, in the prime and vigor of His life, innocent of any wrongdoing laid down His life for us.
2. As the paschal lamb was among the people from the 10th to the 14th day of the month, Christ "came unto his own, and his own received him not."
3. As the paschal lamb was killed before the assembly, Christ was publicly tried and crucified by his people.
4. As they applied blood to the posts of their houses, we must have his blood applied to our souls if we are to escape God's wrath.
5. As the Paschal lamb was to be roasted by fire, Christ received the fiery indignation of God as he hung upon the cross.

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Now having established that Christ is the true Lamb of God let us turn our attention to the accomplishments of His sacrifice.

III. The Serpent in the Wilderness

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

A. **Numbers 21:5-9** And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

1. The people had sinned and God sent venomous snakes as a consequence of their sin; many of the people died.

2. They made a plea to Moses and God provided a remedy, a brass serpent lifted up on a pole.

B. Antivenom

1. A biological product used in the treatment of venomous bites.
2. Antivenom is created by milking venom from a relevant snake, spider, insect, or fish. The venom is then diluted and injected into a host, such as a horse or sheep.
3. The host animal will undergo an immune response to the venom, producing antibodies against the venom's active molecules
4. The antivenom can then be harvested from the animal's blood and used to counteract the poisonous bite.

C. Christ; Our Remedy

1. **The human race is afflicted with sin, the result of which is death.**

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. **God sent His only begotten Son to secure our remedy.**
3. **Why the Serpent? Why not a lamb? Christ “was made to be sin for us”**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **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.

4. Christ was “lifted up”

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

5. The Cure is Harvested from the Blood—Eternal Life is in the blood

Colossians 1:19-20 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; **20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

IV. The Preciousness of that Blood

A. Not a drop of His blood will be wasted

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*.

B. For those who put their faith in the finished work of Christ

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

C. For those who reject Him

Hebrews 10:28-29 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: **29** 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?