

## **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **“An Introduction to the Blood”**

#### **Introduction**

John 6:53-56

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. KJV<sup>1</sup>

*Before we smugly assume to know what the Lord meant by these words, we should hear the testimony of those who heard Him speak it.*

John 6:60-61, 66

60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

*Blood words are hard words. Before we simply theologize these words of the Lord Jesus through judicious use of symbolism and figures of speech, we should consider these His disciples – people who heard Him teach it “live” and were unencumbered by the language and cultural barriers to understanding that we face – who found it too hard of a saying to follow. Was it because they didn’t understand it, or because they understood it all too well?*

Matthew 26:26-28

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

*Jesus presented His blood in Covenant language. His disciples, devout Jews, should not have missed the import of placing His blood in the context of the “new covenant.” No covenant was made without blood. He was prepared to shed His own to remove sin from mankind.*

*This is an aspect of the faith many of us Christians take for granted and which many non-Christians find odd, if not abominable. How can one man die for another? And why should another’s blood avail for me? Man’s pride exhibited in self-righteousness fights against Grace which would freely set him at liberty.*

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*The main religions of the world try to deal with sin by behavior modification (i.e. ascetic disciplines) or denial (i.e., man isn't intrinsically sinful), rarely if ever by blood. Even Judaism, who's past is awash in the blood of animal sacrifice, came to the conclusion not long after the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple that blood wasn't really as much a requirement of God as it was His concession to them because of their pagan past!*

*Atonement and remission of sin through the shedding of blood is the theological riverbed of all Scripture. If we don't understand this basic principle in the economy of God, we are destined for spiritually impoverished lives.*

*The intent of this study is to follow a simple course to understand the importance of the Blood and how to apply it to our lives. This introductory teaching will lay out the premise of this course: 1) the Law instructs us about Christ, 2) the natural order teaches us about the eternal power of the Godhead. We will deal with the latter one first.*

## **I. Creation Teaches Us About the Creator**

### **1. The Lessons of the Creation – Rom 1:19-20**

Romans 1:19-20

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

*The entire material realm wasn't simply made as a habitation for man. It was created with the intent that it should educate him to the unseen qualities and character of the Godhead. This truth is what brings excitement to scientific study. When we study the creation, we should learn of the Creator. The things made instruct us of their Maker.*

### **2. The Order of Things – 1 Cor 15:45-46**

1 Corinthians 15:45-46

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

*Though verse 46 is speaking specifically about Adam and Christ, it illustrates a principle in the economy of God: first the natural, then the spiritual. This is one of the reasons why God asks for obedience in order for us to gain understanding. It is in the doing of natural things that often times seem foolish (i.e. preaching, washing of feet, tithing) that spiritual lessons come. He put our treasures in earthen vessels. He intends that earthen vessel to be a means of instruction.*

### **3. Understanding the Earthly – John 3:11-13**

John 3:1-10

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

- 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
- 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
- 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
- 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?
- 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

*Throughout this discussion with Nicodemus, Jesus uses natural things (birthing, seeing, water, flesh, wind) to teach him about spiritual things (the kingdom of God, Spirit, being led of the Spirit). Nicodemus's lack of comprehension elicited this comment from the Master.*

John 3:11-13

- 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.
- 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
- 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

*We need to believe the lessons He teaches us through the earthly things so that we can move on to the heavenly realities. This is the educational program of God.*

## **II. The Old Covenant only a Type of the New**

### **1. The Tabernacle only a Shadow – Heb 8:1-5**

Hebrews 8:1-5

- 1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
- 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.
- 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.
- 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

*All that Moses was instructed to build in the wilderness was a pattern of the reality which is in heaven. Every article of furniture, every piece of cloth, every arrangement and ceremony spoke of heavenly realities. As we look at them, we need to understand that they are only shadows and pray that the Holy Spirit would shed His light on them that we may behold them with unveiled face.*

2. In the Volume of the Book – Heb 10:5-10

Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Hebrews records for us our Savior's parting words when He left the glories of heaven to unite Himself to mankind. "In the volume of the book it is written of me." The word translated "book" is defined by W. E. Vine as follows:*

*'Kephalis NT:2777, lit., "a little head" (a diminutive of kephale, "a head"; Lat., capitulum, a diminutive of caput), hence, "a capital of a column," then, "a roll" (of a book), occurs in Heb 10:7, RV, "in the roll" (KJV, "in the volume"), lit., "in the heading of the scroll" (from Ps 40:7).'<sup>2</sup>*

*This declaration was recorded by the Prophet/King David. The scroll and volume available to him was none other than the Torah, the book of the Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books describe the sacrificial system in painstaking detail. And they all speak of Jesus.*

3. The Law for Faith – John 5:45-47

John 5:45-47

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

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<sup>2</sup> from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

*Jesus lists faith in the writings of Moses as a prerequisite of faith in His sayings. His sayings are the rhema's of Christ, the hearing of which brings faith (Rom 10:17). This process feeds itself. It is the very writings of Moses which, when viewed with face unveiled, cause us to move from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:13-18). As we examine the Torah with hearts open to the revelation of Jesus Christ, our faith increases in the words of Jesus. As we receive the words of Jesus in faith, faith comes more abundantly on us. As we return to the Law with increased faith, Jesus is revealed. As Jesus is revealed, our faith in what He tells us grows larger . . . and on it goes.*

*If we are to have faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ, we must learn and have faith in what Moses wrote about blood.*

### **III. Human Blood – Some Natural Facts**

*Having seen that the natural order teaches us about the unseen world from which the eternal power of the Godhead emanates, let us now turn to an examination of human blood.*

#### **1. Blood Volume**

*An average male of around 150 pounds has a blood volume of about 5.3 quarts. This is more blood than a small engine car has oil! The body doesn't need this much blood to operate, but maintains this blood volume in case of emergency. This is why we can survive even substantial bleeding.*

*But Jesus bled all He had for us. Well over a gallon of blood poured out of Him from the time He prayed in the Garden to when the soldier pulled the spear out of His side. As He bled for you and for me throughout His tortures, His body moved to compensate. His heart rate increased. His adrenal gland secreted epinephrine into the blood stream and His veins and arteries constricted to maintain blood pressure.*

*Sometime after the first precious quart was shed, He began to go into shock. His heart rate increased yet more, beating in love for you and for me. While His skin grew cold, sweat still poured out. His eyes dilated and His lungs became even more desperate for air. As one quart lost moved to two or three, vital organs began to fail and death became imminent. Hanging on through weakness and fighting through a mental haze caused by lack of oxygen, He declared, "It is finished." And He gave up the ghost.<sup>3</sup>*

*Unsure and surprised, the soldier thrust in his pike and extracted the last reserves of the cleansing Blood and brought forth the testimony of the promised Holy Spirit (John 19:34).*

#### **2. Blood Composition**

##### **A. Red Blood Cells**

*Red blood cells transport oxygen from the lungs to all of the body's tissues. This is a marvelous reality which was revealed to Moses thousands of years before red blood*

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<sup>3</sup> Insights on the effects of shock due to blood loss were gained from "Physiological (from cardiovascular disease)." Encyclopaedia Britannica from Encyclopaedia Britannica 2004 Ultimate Reference Suite DVD. Copyright © 1994-2003 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

*cells were ever examined under a microscope and their oxygen-binding iron atoms discovered.*

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

*Upon receiving the breath of life from God, man became a living soul. The Hebrew word translated soul is nephesh. Later in the “volume of the book” it is revealed where nephesh resides.*

Leviticus 17:11

For the life [*nephesh*] 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.

*What modern science has taught us, the Bible declared all along. The breath of life is in the blood – the red blood cells carry oxygen.*

B. White Blood Cells

*White blood cells help to provide defense to the body by digesting microorganisms and cellular debris. They also provide immunity to disease by producing antibodies.*

C. Platelets

*Platelets are vital in coagulation. They stick to torn vessel walls and form the mesh upon which a clot builds. They also release chemicals that initiate the clot formation.*

D. Plasma

*Plasma serves as the transportation medium for the other major components of blood. The basic composition of plasma resembles seawater, consisting of water and dissolved salts. Its main functions are discussed below.*

3. Some of the Purposes of Plasma

A. Transport System

*All the other blood components are suspended in the plasma, which carries them through the circulatory system as it is pushed by the pump of the heart. It also serves as a transport system and medium for nutrients and waste products.*

B. Blood Pressure

*Plasma helps to maintain blood pressure.*

C. Heat Distribution

*Plasma is 90 to 92 percent water. Water is the best liquid heat conductor except for mercury. Thus, plasma is able to absorb large amounts of heat and distribute evenly and efficiently throughout the body.*

#### D. pH Balance

*Plasma helps keep a steady pH balance in the body. If we become too base, our salt is only good for being trodden underfoot (Matt 5:13). If we become too acidic, our bitterness threatens to defile many (Heb 12:15).*

*Meditation on these functions of the different parts of our blood should render insights into some of what the Blood of Jesus Christ does for and in His Body, the Church.*

#### **Conclusion**

1 Peter 1:18-21

18 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,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

*We were not bought with corruptible commodities such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Christ, unspoiled by any blemish or spot. His perfect blood brought forth a perfect union of God with man – access to the holiest of all by the Blood of Jesus. His blood not only purchased us to God, it protects us from the enemy.*

Revelation 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.

*It is by the Blood we were redeemed. It is by the Blood that we overcome. We need to hear the words that speak of the Blood and the words that the Blood speaks that our faith might increase, our fellowship deepen, and our warfare be victorious.*