

The Blood of Jesus – Its Meaning

1. The blood of sacrifices and the blood of Jesus both mean something.

Gen. 4:10 – Abel’s blood cries out from the ground. What is its message?

Heb. 12:24 – Jesus’ blood speaks more graciously than Abel’s. How?

2. The blood represents life and the life stands for Christ’s life and what it represents.

Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:11-14 – The blood is the life; life is in the blood. Whose life?

“And the life was the light of humankind” John 1:4

What is the light? A metaphor for truth.

3. Christ’s blood involves the covenant, referred to as the “New Covenant.”

Matt. 26:27-28; Mark 14:23, 24; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25

“This is the [new] covenant in my blood.” (Cf. the Sinai covenant in Ex. 24:5-8.)

What did blood in the covenant mean?

The New Covenant – Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12; 13:20-21

-God will put the law within their minds and write it on their hearts

-He will be their God and they will be His people

-They will all know Him

-He will forgive and forget their iniquity and sin

4. The blood of Jesus cleanses and sanctifies.

1 John 1:7-9 – the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins

(if we confess our sins, he is both faithful and just to forgive and cleanse)

Rev. 7:14 – multitude in heaven have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb

Heb. 10:29 – sanctified by the blood of the Lamb

Heb. 13:12 – Jesus suffered to sanctify us by His own blood

Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through Your truth; Your word is truth.” John 17:17

5. The blood is one of the three witnesses that testify to the truth of Jesus

1 John 5:6-12 – three witnesses are the Spirit, the water, and the blood

Cf. John’s gospel which emphasizes these three witnesses

-John 1 – Jesus is baptized in **water**; John sees the **Spirit** descend on Jesus

-John 2 – Jesus changes **water** into wine (a NT symbol of **blood**)

-John 3 – Jesus tells Nicodemus to be born of **water** and of **Spirit**

-John 4 – Jesus tells the Samaritan about the **water** of life

-John 5 – Jesus heals a man – apart from **water**

-John 6 – Jesus tells his listeners to eat of his flesh and drink his **blood**

Key: Flesh profits nothing: Jesus’ words are Spirit and life (cf. blood)

-John 7-12 – Metaphors change: blindness/seeing, Shepherd

-John 13 – Jesus washes the disciples’ feet in **water**

-John 14-16 – Jesus promises the disciples to send the **Spirit of truth**

-John 17 – Jesus clarifies eternal life: **knowing** God and Jesus

-John 19:34 – Jesus’ side pierced: **blood** and **water** (cf. vv.35-37)

6. Where in the Gospels is there mention of blood in connection to Jesus' experience from Gethsemane through His crucifixion and death?

Matt. 27:4-8 – Judas exclaims that he has shed innocent blood. Judas' "blood money"; field of blood to bury Judas

Matt. 27:24, 25 – Pilate washes his hands declaring himself innocent of Jesus' blood; the people respond that His blood will be on them and their children

Luke 22:44 – Jesus sweats drops like great drops of blood

John 19:34 – Jesus' side is pierced and blood and water flow out

What is the significance of Jesus' blood?

If it is not to appease God, how is it involved in our forgiveness and cleansing?

Paul makes it clear in Rom. 3:21-26, that God had to show Jesus dying in His blood in order to show that God is righteous/just and the One who sets right/justifies those who believe in Him. He says that the reason God need to show that He is righteous is because in earlier times He passed over sin.

The Bible makes it clear (see Job 1:6-12; 21-6; Zech. 3:1-3; Rev. 12:10) that there is an accuser who accuses God and human beings before the universe. In fact the title by which we know him, Satan, actually means "accuser." The Bible also makes it clear that when he accuses anyone, God takes his accusations seriously and seeks to vindicate Himself or the human being he has accused.

In the beginning, God made it clear to our first parents that if they ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, they would certainly die. The serpent (alias Satan according to Rev. 12:9) countered this by saying the opposite, "You shall not certainly die!" In effect, he made God out to be a liar.

According to Exodus 34:6-7, God is the forgiver. Forgiveness is part of His nature. He could have merely forgiven Adam and Eve and all of us, but what about Satan's charges that He had lied? Who would prove the truth about sin leading to death, if not us? That is, God could have allowed Adam and Eve to die. It would have been clear, wouldn't it? Or would it? Satan no doubt would have shouted, "See! God executed them! Sin didn't really hurt them. It was God who killed them." And besides, if Adam and Eve died wouldn't that be it? No forgiveness.

That's why Jesus died. That's why only Jesus could answer the questions about God's character, about the nature and consequences of sin. The two instances of His blood in the gospel suggest that Jesus died of a broken heart. He didn't die because God killed Him. He died because of sin, just as those who reject His mercy will die someday.

Thus the blood of Jesus represents the truth that God is not vindictively waiting to punish. Sin is lethal. It destroys sinners and sin and sin alone is responsible for the final destruction of sin and sinners.