

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PART 3)

Why the Blood and Why the Cross? (Couldn't God have devised another way?) Why does the Plan of Salvation found **ONLY** in Jesus Christ “work?”

1. In part 2 we saw that God's “**weapon**” in addressing sin, evil, and rebellion is **HIS LOVE**. It was His Love **incarnated in Jesus Christ** that was the **POWER** of redemption for fallen humanity. Man was created in God's image not only for God to have fellowship with a creation like Him, but as the **CENTERPIECE** of this “**War on Sin.**” The **ANGELS** (because Lucifer had introduced sin and rebellion into their world) would also learn from this Plan of Redemption for the human race as stated in 1 Peter 1:10,12:
 - “Of which **SALVATION** the prophets have enquired and searched diligently... Unto whom it was revealed , that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **WHICH THINGS THE ANGELS DESIRE TO LOOK INTO.**”

QUESTION: Why do you think the angels desire to look into this salvation we have been given?

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: Do you remember the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle of Moses and how God was using everything associated with the Tabernacle in its physical design as well as the animal offerings to foreshadow the salvation that would be given 1500 years later in Jesus Christ? How were the two golden cherubim positioned on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant?

ANSWER: _____

WHY: _____

The Bible states that when we receive the Baptism with the Holy Ghost, we receive **POWER**.

- “But ye shall receive **POWER** after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that when we receive this **POWER** of the Holy Ghost that we have received this **LOVE of GOD**:

- “...because the **LOVE OF GOD** is shed abroad **IN our HEARTS** by the **HOLY GHOST** which is given unto us.” (Romans 5:5)

2. Now we come to the question, **“WHY THE BLOOD?”**

There have been the “naysayers” and the atheists who have said that the **Bible** is a **BLOODY BOOK**—that it is no different from a lot of the other, so-called religious, Holy Books.

Well...There is no disputing that the Bible is, indeed, a **BLOODY BOOK**, but how does the Christian explain the difference?

The **“Blood”** is a **MAJOR** component in the **PROOF** that the Holy Bible is the **ONLY** Holy Book and is the **EXCLUSIVE revelation of Almighty God**. The Divine Fingerprint is upon the pages of The Word of God as evidenced by God’s ability to “lay scripture upon scripture” (over a period of 1600 years) which never deviates from the **CENTRAL THEME**, that is, **THE REDEMPTION OF HUMANITY** accomplished through the Messiah. It is that **IRREFUTABLE SCARLET THREAD OF REDEMPTION**, the **CONTINUITY**, which begins **AT THE BEGINNING**—in Genesis, approximately 4000 years B.C.!!!

QUESTION: After Adam and Eve sinned, what was **God’s FIRST ACTION** in physically and graphically illustrating that they had **REJECTED HIS SPIRITUAL COVERING**?

ANSWER: (See Gen. 3:21) _____

QUESTION: What spiritual principle was He teaching them and us in His response as to how He would **ultimately resolve** the **SIN ISSUE**? (*This spiritual principle will be the **CORNERSTONE** in His carefully interwoven Scarlet Thread of Redemption throughout the scriptures.*)

ANSWER: _____

QUESTION: After Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, they had offspring—Cain and Abel. What was the **FIRST RECORDED ACT** in Holy Scripture that was a **DEADLY** manifestation of the **SIN NATURE**?

ANSWER: (See Gen. 4:8) _____

QUESTION: When God addressed Cain about murdering his brother, what did God say about **Abel’s BLOOD**?

ANSWER: (See Gen. 4:9-11) _____

The **FIRST HUMAN BLOOD** spilled upon the ground in a murderous act is especially egregious to God because, unlike anything else in His creation, **man is CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD**. God addresses the **VALUE of human life** again when He speaks to Noah after the flood:

- “Whoso **sheddeth MAN’S BLOOD**, by man **shall his blood be shed**: for in the **IMAGE OF GOD** made He man.” (Genesis 9:6)

The fundamental principle that **THE BLOOD “SPEAKS”** and that it **“SPEAKS” ETERNALLY** is further emphasized in other events **THOUSANDS of years later!!!** Jesus even referenced the **murder of ABEL** when He was denouncing the scribes and Pharisees (the **RELIGIOUS LEADERS**) as hypocrites, serpents and vipers:

- “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come **ALL the RIGHTEOUS BLOOD shed upon the earth**, from the **BLOOD OF RIGHTEOUS ABEL** unto the **BLOOD** of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” (Matthew 23:33-35)

Jesus further alluded to the **FIRST MURDER** as being **inspired by the Devil** and told the **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** that they had the **SAME SPIRIT** as the **DEVIL!!!**

- Ye (religious leaders) are of **YOUR FATHER** the **DEVIL**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He** (the Devil) was a **MURDERER** from the **BEGINNING**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he (the Devil) speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Because Abel and his murder provides such a cornerstone of the Biblical picture of **The Scarlet Thread of Redemption**, the writer of Hebrews (**OVER 4,000 YEARS LATER**) references Abel and his acceptable offering:

- “By **faith ABEL** offered unto God a **MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE** than Cain, by which he obtained witness that **he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being **dead YET SPEAKETH**.” (Hebrews 11:4)

The writer of Hebrews also cites **Abel’s murder** as a **picture** that **Abel’s BLOOD** justly cried **from the ground to be AVENGED**, but that the **BLOOD of JESUS** satisfied the justice demanded by that act—the **BLOOD of GOD SACRIFICED** for the **BLOOD of that which is created in the image of God**—perfectly fulfilling the standard of justice: “life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth.”

- And to **JESUS** the **MEDIATOR** of the **NEW COVENANT**, and to the **BLOOD OF SPRINKLING**, that speaketh **BETTER** things **than that of ABEL**. (Hebrews 12:24)

It becomes evident that since the **FIRST** recorded action of a **DEADLY manifestation** of the **sin nature** involved the **SHEDDING OF HUMAN BLOOD** upon the ground, God would institute as a **Divine Law** (Principle) to his people Israel and through Moses in the Old Testament:

- “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.” (Leviticus 17:11)

Moses would call this **CONTRACT** between God and His people, “**THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT:**”

- “And Moses took the **BLOOD** and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT** which the Lord hath made with you...” (Exodus 24:8)

The **Old Testament BLOOD COVENANT** was a **FORESHADOWING** of the **TRUE and ETERNAL BLOOD COVENANT** found in **Jesus Christ, the GOD-MAN**.

Only God can CUT COVENANT with GOD. Man is NOT God’s EQUAL! In **Jesus’ BLOOD COVENANT**, because **Jesus became FLESH**, yet He was **fully GOD**, He could **cut covenant on OUR BEHALF** and with **HOLY GOD!**

The **BLOOD of GOD** fell to the **cursed ground** in **Gethsemane** as the **Master SWEATED** and, later, the **BLOOD OF GOD** splattered upon the Roman soldiers as they scourged Him and nailed Him to the Cross. **HOLY BLOOD** trickled down the Cross to course down the slopes of Calvary. It is the **ETERNAL RED RIVER!!!**

This is the **BLOOD of the COVENANT** which answers to the **FIRST BLOOD** spilled as a result of **SIN** in the heart of Cain.

Only God, while giving man free-moral agency, can cause such a **SCARLET THREAD OF REDEMPTION** to become interwoven within the pages of His Holy Word, thereby validating that the **Bible is what it says it is and can do what it says it can do!!!**

HALLELUJAH!!!

This ought to make everybody want to be missionaries to YEMEN!!!

