

## THE CHEMISTRY OF THE BLOOD

Chemistry in its most literal definition is the branch of science that deals with the identification of the substances of which matter is composed; the investigation of their properties and the ways in which they interact, combine, and change; and the use of these processes to form new substances. A newer added definition of chemistry is: the emotional or psychological interaction between two people, especially when experienced as a powerful mutual attraction. Today we would like to investigate the phenomena of the blood. Our text is going to be the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Leviticus.

### **1. Blood shed in sacrifice for sins must be brought to the one and only place designated by God (Leviticus 17:1-4).**

Random killing of an animal was forbidden. All life is sacred to God. Leviticus 17:3, 4 says, *"What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp, And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people."*

There were idols abounding in the land where God's people were dwelling. To assure that no blood sacrifices were offered up in tribute to one of these idols, the slain animal was required to be brought to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation where the priest would make the offering unto the Lord. He would sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the Lord at the door of the tabernacle.

If one had violated the holy law of God, he could not just make his own altar, but was to come to one place and one place only. The blood of that animal must be on the altar. The only place for sinners such as you and I can go for forgiveness of sins is to the cross of Christ where the Lamb of God was crucified for our sins. Leviticus 17:4 says if a man did not bring the blood of the animal he had slain to the altar, *"blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people."* Romans 4:3-8 declares, *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was*

counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." If we come to Jesus and His cross, the place of judgment is exchanged for the mercy seat where grace, forgiveness and righteousness is imputed.

## **2. No blood can be offered to anything or anyone that steal our hearts from the Lord (Leviticus 17:5-9).**

*"And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations" (Leviticus 17:7). God tells us, "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God..." (Deuteronomy 5:7-9a).*

The Bible says, *"...so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (II Samuel 15:6b). Absalom seduced the men of Israel and turned their hearts from following God's King into following him and making him the rebel king. He wrecked the kingdom. Should we let anyone other than King Jesus rule and reign in our hearts, we, too, will be wrecked. We are warned in Scripture: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).*

## **3. Blood is sacred, because it represents life (Lev. 17: 10-14).**

*"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). Unlike the organs of the body, the blood circulates throughout every part of the body. If blood cannot reach a portion of the body, that portion of the body dies. If the blood stops circulating throughout the whole body, that person dies.*

Concerning the passage of Scripture found in Genesis 2:7b, *"And [God] breathed into his [Adam's] nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul,"* Dr. M. R. DeHaan wrote, *"The breath of God put something in man that*

made him alive. That something was blood. It must have been. It could be nothing else: for we have already shown that the Life of the flesh is in the blood thereof, and so when life was added by the breath of God, He imparted to that lump of clay in the shape of a man the blood, and a man became a living soul. Adam's body was of the ground. His blood was the separate gift of God for God is Life and the Author of all life.... Christ could partake of Adam's flesh, which is not inherently sinful, but He could not partake of Adam's blood, which was completely impregnated with sin. God found a way by which Jesus 'born of a woman' (not man) could be a perfect human being but, because He had not a drop of Adam's sin in His veins He did not share in Adam's sin."

Because of Adam's fall in the garden, we became blood poisoned. I Peter 1: 18, 19 says, *"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; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* When we receive Christ, you might say we have received a spiritual blood transfusion.

In Leviticus 17; 13,14, God gives a command to hunters who kill an animal for food and that is to not eat the blood of the animal, but to bury it. The Lord is saying you have taken the life of another to sustain your own, therefore honor that which best represents the sacred life that Almighty God gives, by giving the blood a reverential burial.

The laws of God are full of teaching. Here is a beautiful lesson! Christ died giving His own blood to give us eternal life. In the same way that blood sustains the physical life on earth, Christ's blood sustains us for all eternity! *"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).

#### **4. Worship out of convenience is unacceptable and defiling (Lev. 17:15-16).**

In these closing verses of Leviticus 17, we see God forbidding the Jews to eat that which died of itself or was killed by another animal. Even though the one who found it buries the remaining blood, if he decides to eat it, he is defiled and must go through the proper cleansings.

Today many worship the Lord only in convenience. The proper method for eating an animal as prescribed to the Jews was by presenting it sacrificially and reverently. It is not too gross a comparison to say that many a church that once knew the beauties of sacrificial service are now only serving up "road-kill."

God wants service out a willing heart full of love that is willing to sacrifice for Him.

In Conclusion:

While on this earth, Christ journeyed to Jerusalem to bring His blood to the right place. Because of this act propitiation was made; the judgment place for Christ became the mercy place for us. His blood was shed for our sins -- His life for my life. Now in worship to Him, I am not going to look for the shortcuts or convenient routes of service. I will not choose the broad way that the majority of people take; I shall take the narrow way that pleases Him. May our life and eternity be consumed with praise to Him who gave His lifeblood for us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.