

OUR TEXT

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.” And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

There is a red strand that runs throughout the Bible, and it is the blood of Jesus Christ – foreshadowed in the Old Testament and shed and taught in the New Testament. Let’s trace some of the critical points, showing that “It’s About The Blood.”

THE BLOOD IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Genesis 3:21 *The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. It’s about the blood.*

Genesis 4:3-5a *So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock ... and the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. It’s about the blood.*

Genesis 17:10-11 *This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. It’s about the blood.*

Genesis 22:2 *[God] said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” Its about the blood.*

Exodus 12:13 *The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. It’s about the blood.*

Exodus 20:22, 24 *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.’” It’s about the blood.*

Leviticus 1:2-3, 5 *[God:] “When any man of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of animals from the herd or the flock ... He shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the Lord. ... And Aaron’s sons the priests shall offer up the blood and sprinkle the blood around on the altar that is at the doorway of the tent of meeting. It’s about the blood.*

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.*
It's about the blood.

Matthew 26:27-28 *And when [Jesus] had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it; all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."* It's about the blood.

John 6:53-56 *So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."*
It's about the blood.

Ephesians 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.* It's about the blood.

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.* It's about the blood.

Revelation 5:9 *And they sang a new song, saying "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."* It's about the blood.

"The blood" is, clearly, the blood of Jesus Christ shed upon the cross of Calvary. This is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament.

The "It" that the blood is all about is RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
Thus: **The blood of Jesus is about relationship with God**

Why blood?

1. God makes the rules – and He says blood is required for relationship
2. Our best clue: from Leviticus 17:11 (read earlier): our bodily life is found in the blood flowing through our veins. For life to be restored, or made new, a "blood transfusion" is required – the perfect blood of our Savior applied to our life

LESSONS FROM OUR TEXT

VERSE 15

For what reason is Jesus the mediator of a new covenant?

A: On the basis of His BLOOD (replacing and fulfilling the shed blood of animals)

How could Jesus' death redeem the sins committed under the first covenant?

A: God made Jesus' blood sacrifice **RETROACTIVE** (for those "called")

Examples:

1. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8)
2. Abraham believed in the Lord and He reckoned it to him as righteousness (Gen. 15:6)
3. Moses spoke with God face to face, as a man speaks to his friend (Ex.33:11)
4. Job was found to be blameless and upright, fearing God and turning from evil (Job 1:1)
5. David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22)
6. Isaiah was cleansed and commissioned by the Lord (Is. 1:6-8)
7. God granted Daniel favor (grace) because he would not defile himself (Dan. 1:8-9)

Each of these believed in the Messiah to come who would bring righteousness

VERSE 16-17

Illustration #1 – covenant = will & testament; a death is required to finalize Christ's death fulfilled the first covenant and "closed the book" on the second, allowing God's promise of redemption and cleansing of our sin to be enacted for all who receive and accept God's call. Therefore Jesus' blood sacrifice for sin was **PROACTIVE**, cleansing from all future sins committed by those who are His own (Heb. 9:26)

VERSE 18-20

Illustration #2: "the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev. 17:8-16)
In the first covenant, God commanded blood be shed. The blood (of animals) brought a temporary relationship with God. The initiation is recounted in Exodus 24:3-8

VERSE 21

Likewise, the tabernacle and its furnishings (and later the temple) were made accessible by blood
Implication: The second covenant (relationship with God) was made possible and permanent by the shedding of perfect blood – the blood of Christ. And that shed blood of Jesus makes access to God in the heavenly tabernacle possible as well.

VERSE 22

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (from Lev. 17:11)

1. An OT principle and a NT principle
2. Forgiveness is costly, requiring an ultimate sacrifice
Today, even the forgiveness of another requires the death of retribution and resentment and is costly in the tears, anguish and sleepless nights of the forgiver
3. 9:22 a Biblical verse worthy of memorizing (memory aid)

FAMILIAR HYMNS ABOUT THE BLOOD

√ Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood!
√ The blood that Jesus shed for me, way back on Calvary, the blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power.
√ O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.
√ What can wash away my sin? – nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? – nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know – nothing but the blood of Jesus.

SO WHAT DO I DO WITH THE BLOOD? (A, B, C, D, L)

1. I **APPLY** IT to the "doorpost" of my life and home, metaphorically, that I might be protected
2. I **BELIEVE** that Jesus' blood is efficient to cleanse me from all past, present and future sins.
3. I **CONFESS** my sins day by day, taking God at His word that by my confession His blood forgives me and makes me clean in His sight (1 John 1:9)
4. I **DRINK** IT as I drink of Jesus in reading His Word, relying on His strength and remembering and accepting His sacrifice for me as I partake in regular communion.
5. I **LIVE** IT without guilt or condemnation, walking in His Light. I offer my very self as a living sacrifice to serve Him anyway I can as an act of worship.

Romans 12:1 *I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship.*