

The Atoning Blood Of Christ

God is essentially a God of Justice.

The whole concept of Atonement is based upon God's Justice.

Justice by definition is what God as Sovereign and Creator of all things determines is fair and righteous.

Atonement by definition is what God does to make amends for our sins without compromising His Sovereignty and His righteousness.

Romans 3:25-26 [NIV] *“God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”*

We are saved by what Jesus Christ did from what we deserved, death, without God having to compromise His character of being a just God. The only condition is faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God's throne is essentially a throne of justice.

Psalm 89:14 [NIV] *“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”*

The foundation of God's Sovereign rule over all His creation is righteousness [right judgement] and just dealings with all. Thankfully God has constantly before His eyes love and faithfulness.

When we kneel before His throne in worship and prayer each day God looks on us through a “*filter of love*”.

With these attributes first and foremost in His mind, we should be eternally grateful for this approach of God to our conduct.

Revelation 20:11-12 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*

Our eternal future will be determined by what we have done with what has been given to us by God.

All that we should have done is recorded in the books of the Bible mentioned here in this scripture.

Also recorded in the Book of Life is what we actually did do.

All these books will be the basis of our final judgement and our just end to the life we have received on loan from our Creator.

God's Justice lies behind all His dealings with people prior to the final judgement.

Deuteronomy 32:4 [NIV] *“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”*

From our stand point we can have no basis for argument with our Creator God, we can only seek His loving mercy.

1 John 1:9 [NIV] *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

This is our only hope for the gift of eternal life. The starting point for us is confession and faith in what God has already done for us through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23 [NIV] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

This is where we stand without Christ’s atoning blood.

Romans 5:10 [NIV] *“For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”*

The only way we can be reconciled [made at one] to our Creator God.

God provided the substitute needed for our not having to die for our sins.

Romans 5:8 [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

This is the “love filter” through which God judges us.

1 John 4:8 [NIV] *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

God is love so that is the only way He can act.

1 John 4:10 [NIV] *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

The initiative as always has to come from God.

Atonement is not something we can set in motion by anything we can do, we just have to humbly accept what God initiated.

1 Peter 2:24 [NIV] *“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”*

The rift that our sins made between ourselves and our Creator is healed by Christ’s blood.

Christ’s death on the cross is the only thing that satisfies God’s justice.

Romans 3:25 [NIV Margin Note] *“The one who would turn aside His wrath, taking away sin.”*

Romans 5:9 [NIV] *“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!”*

God’s wrath is always linked with His just judgement.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 [NIV] *“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*

When we take lightly the love gift from God the poured out blood of His beloved Son we incur the wrath of God.

Hebrews 10:19-25 [NIV] *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

To be reconciled to our Creator, to be in His presence to learn of Him and from Him, to mature into His children, we are dependent on the blood of Christ.

The meaning of the blood of Jesus, shed for us.

Luke 22:44 [NIV] *“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”*

The first evidence of Jesus shedding His blood was in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew what crucifixion was like, it was a common sight in the Roman world, He was in agony. The Greek word used is of someone who is fighting a battle with sheer fear, but He won through shedding His blood.

Matthew 27:26 [NIV] *“Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”*

The second time Jesus shed blood was after His flogging as ordered by Pilate.

Matthew 27:29 [NIV] *“and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said.”*

The third time Jesus shed blood was when a crown of thorns was jammed onto His head by Roman soldiers.

Matthews 27:35 [NIV] *“When they had crucified Him...”*

The fourth time Jesus shed blood was in the act of crucifixion itself.

While hanging in extreme agony the blood dripped to the ground, flowing from His brow, hands, feet and other parts of His body as a result of the flogging.

John 19:34 [NIV] *“Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.”*

The final shedding of blood immediately followed by Jesus' death from the soldiers spear thrust.

We are therefore referring to the actual life blood that came from the body of the Son of God.

Genesis 4:10-11 [NIV] *“The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.”*

Righteous Abel's blood, shed at the hands of his brother Cain, dripped to the ground and cried out to God from the ground.

Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, would also have fallen to the ground, it too cried out to God.

Matthew 17:5 [NIV] *“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”*

Jesus was God's beloved Son who was very pleasing to Him, Jesus' blood should also cry out to us.

1 Peter 1:18-19 [NIV] *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

Jesus' blood should be precious to us as well as His Father.

Why is the study of the blood of Jesus so important?

- a) It focuses on the greatest event in the history of mankind, the death of the second Adam, Jesus the Christ on the cross.
- b) It focuses on the meaning and purpose of Christ's death, the atonement, reconciliation of man to His Creator.
- c) It shows the connection between the Old and New Covenants.
- d) It shows what is the basis of our fellowship with the Father.
- e) It shows what must be preached and taught in every generation.
- f) It brings us face to face with one of the essential ingredients in the spiritual warfare against evil.

The first mention of blood in scripture is the first recorded murder.

Genesis 4:10 [NIV] *“The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.”*

Notice certain things about this first recorded spilling of blood.

- a) Abel's blood cried out to God.
- b) It was an appeal for God to act.
- c) It was literal blood, which fell to the ground.
- d) God heard the cry.
- e) The blood continued to make its own appeal, even though the person whose blood it was had died.

When did God first require blood from a sacrifice?

Exodus 12:7 [NIV] *“Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.”*

The literal blood was required not just the taking of the life of the lamb.

Exodus 12:3 [NIV] *“Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.”*

Each head of house was responsible for selecting the lamb for the whole family.

Exodus 12:6 [NIV] *“Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.”*

The lamb was to be slaughtered and the blood collected in a container.

Exodus 12:22 [NIV] *“Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.”*

The blood was to be visibly sprinkled on the sides and top of the door frame with a bunch of hyssop.

Exodus 12:13 [NIV] *“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”*

The blood was to be a sign being on the door frame it was visible to all other people, the whole community had a common identity, the blood of the lamb.

Exodus 12:12 [NIV] *“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn-- both men and animals-- and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.”*

The blood was a testimony against false gods, a sign who were the people of the One True God.

The blood was visible to God, this was what God was going to look for when His wrath was metered out against the sin of Egypt.

Notice it says when “I” see the blood, not “you”.

Exodus 12:23 [NIV] *“When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.”*

The blood was a protection from God’s wrath, but this wrath was going to be administered by the destroying angel.

1 Corinthians 10:10 [NIV] *“And do not grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.”*

The destroying angel could have been Satan for he has power over death [Hebrews 2:14] and used as an instrument to do God’s work [2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1].

The blood set God free from doing what otherwise He would have done.

It was the blood of the lamb that set God free from destroying the firstborn of Israel, His people. The blood was a substitute for the lives of those who were under threat of death. The only hope of life for God’s people was the blood of the lamb.

The blood was a covering.

Genesis 3:21 [NIV] *“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”*

For God to cover the exposed sin of Adam and Eve a blood sacrifice was made of a substituted animal. This could have been a lamb!

Psalms 32:1 [NIV] *“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”*

The blood of Jesus covers the shame of our sins.

The first covenant was ratified with blood.

Exodus 24:5-8 [NIV] *“Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it*

to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Half of the blood was offered to God by being sprinkled on the altar. The people responded yes to the covenant He had offered to them, then the second half of blood was sprinkled on the people.

Everything pertaining to Passover blood offering is to be understood here. What the blood did was needed again, only this time it was sprinkled on the people not the door frame making it more personal.

Blood involved in consecration of priests.

Exodus 29:16 [NIV] *"Slaughter it and take the blood and sprinkle it against the altar on all sides."*

First the blood of the sacrificial animal was offered to God on the altar, followed by a total burnt offering of the animal.

Exodus 29:19-21 [NIV] *"Take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head. Slaughter it, take some of its blood and put it on the lobes of the right ears of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then sprinkle blood against the altar on all sides. And take some of the blood on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated."*

The blood of a second animal was sprinkled on altar then on the priest.

- a) On the **ear** [reminder to be constantly listening to God]
- b) The **right hand** [depicting that His strength was coming from God]
- c) The **right foot** [God would direct the path he was to walk]

Access to God's Mercy involves a blood offering

Leviticus 16:14-15 [NIV] *"He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover. "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it."*

On the Day of Atonement the high priest took a blood offering with him as he entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat [the lid or cover of the ark of the covenant].

Leviticus 16:6, 18, 30 [NIV] *"Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household." ... "Then he shall come out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He shall take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar." ... "because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins."*

The purpose of this was the ritual cleansing of the priest, the sanctuary and the people.

Hebrews 9:7 [NIV] *"But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance."*

Paul is comparing the Old Covenant with the new ratified by the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 9:12-14, 18-21 [NIV] *“He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” ... “This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.”*

The comparison of Christ’s sacrifice to the blood of animals. How much more effective is the eternal cleansing of Christ’s blood, not only was it personal but internal, cleansing our consciences the source of sin.

Hebrews 12:24 [NIV] *“to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

Jesus was the mediator of the New Covenant, our High Priest.

The blood of the Covenant was sacrificed on the altar, so Jesus was sacrificed on the cross.

The blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat, Jesus entered heaven itself with His own blood.

1 John 1:7 [NIV] *“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, purifies us from all sin.”*

We see that the blood poured out by Jesus, set against the sprinkled Atonement and Passover blood illustrates the shadow and the reality of our Saviour’s cleansing blood.

- a) The blood was the literal blood of Jesus.
- b) The blood was a sign to us and to God.
- c) The blood is our protection from death.
- d) The blood sets God free to give us salvation and eternal life.
- e) The blood of Jesus takes the place of our poured out life blood.
- f) The blood of Jesus is a covering of our sins that then opens the way for reconciliation with our Creator.

Conclusion

Every Jew knew the significance of blood. The Old Covenant religion was based on the concept of blood sacrifices.

And the teaching was that there is no redemption without the shedding of blood. The blood of Jesus is of infinitely more value than the blood shed by Old Covenant animals.

Jesus’ blood instituted the New Covenant that was full and final atonement.

Romans 3:25-26 [NIV] *“God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed*

beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

We may therefore conclude that the blood of Jesus satisfies God’s justice.

Revelation 12:11 [NIV] *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

The blood of Jesus along with our cleansed lives are the tools God uses to defeat Satan’s evil work.

1 John 1:7 [NIV] *“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, purifies us from all sin.”*

Jesus’ blood cleanses us making us Holy for a relationship with a Holy God and our fellow Christians.

1 Peter 1:18-19 [NIV] *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with **the precious blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

No wonder that Peter called Christ’s blood precious.

Do we?