

THE GLORY OF GOD
JROC - WHERE'S THE BLOOD?
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In Isa. 6 we discussed how Isaiah realized WHO GOD IS and realized his own unworthiness. The seraphim praised the HOLINESS of God. Isaiah proclaimed *Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.* Isaiah pronounces “woe” upon himself – cursing himself. He is acknowledging his sin. As a prophet whose primary instrument is his mouth – he acknowledges that his lips are unclean. One of the seraphim took a burning coal from the altar.... Some teach the seraphim took a coal from the altar of burnt offering where sacrifices had been offered...and the coal would be drenched in blood – and there would be the blood that was required. Some believe the coal was taken from the altar of incense which was in front of the veil – the veil separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies...GOD dwelled between the cherubim over the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. Was there blood on the coals from the altar of incense?

How were Isaiah's sins purged seemingly without blood?

1 Peter 1:18-19 - ...*you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Isaiah realized his sin and he came to the end of himself. He was broken and of a contrite heart. And He received the burning coal that purged his sin – placing his trust in God's provision.

Isa. 66:2b - *on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

Hab. 2:4 – *the just shall live by faith*

But what about the blood? I don't see “blood” in Isa. 66:2 or in Hab. 2:4.

We talked about the physical cleansing/external cleansing in the OT – in the rites of purification that are found in Leviticus which looked forward to a GREATER cleansing – spiritual cleansing through JESUS alone – JESUS – the GREATER Moses, the GREATER David.

And in thinking of the physical cleansing that God provided for the children of Israel in the commandments in the Torah – specifically Leviticus, what was the PURPOSE of the physical cleansing?

- To purify the flesh – Heb. 9:13 tells us that the blood of bulls and goats was for the purifying of the flesh. It meant that with the flesh purified (no disease, no leprosy, no defilement from touching a dead body), the children of Israel could remain “inside the camp” where God dwelled in their midst (Ex. 32/33; Lev. 16). Those who were unclean needed to go “outside the camp” – (Lev. 13:46; Num. 5:2) – those with a discharge, with leprosy, those who had touched a dead body – all of these became defiled. On the Day of

Atonement (Lev. 16), the children of Israel made atonement for individual sins, for the nation's sins, and for the sanctuary so that God could dwell inside the camp year by year.

Outside the camp was excommunication. Once the ritual impurity was cleansed, if it ever was, that person could return to the camp/to the community.

Those who were defiled had to be sent "outside the camp" so that their unclean state didn't defile others in the camp.

Those who were defiled had to be sent "outside the camp" because in the midst of the camp of Israel is where God dwelled in the tabernacle; no impure thing could be near to Him.

- The sacrificial system that God gave the children of Israel under the Mosaic Law (conditional covenant requiring obedience on the part of Israel) was a graphic picture of the grace of God. The children of Israel could not obey the 613 commandments God had given them. They couldn't even obey one of the commandments 100% of the time. The sacrificial system provided the way for the people to approach God.

- The sacrificial system pointed to the ultimate sacrifice – JESUS – Who would TAKE AWAY sins.

But – what about the blood of bulls and goats?

Heb. 10:4 – *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

Heb. 9:13 - *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,*

If you're still pondering the Isaiah account -

We do know from John 12:41 that Isaiah saw the GLORY OF JESUS (appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ) when God gave Isaiah the vision in the throne room of God!!!!

Keep that in your mind.

WE NEED TO REMEMBER that there is only one way of salvation noted throughout Scripture – for OT people, NT people, Tribulation people, Millennial kingdom people – by grace through faith in God's revealed message.

Grace – getting what we don't deserve – mankind deserves hell. We're sinners by birth, by nature, and by choice!

Faith - God gives us the gift of faith

Eph. 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Hab. 2:4 - *the just shall live by his faith.*

Where's the BLOOD?

What is His revealed message?

Rev. 13:8 – we read in this chapter that the Beast from the Sea, the antichrist was granted to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Rev. 13 tells us that all who dwell on the earth will worship the antichrist. Those on the earth, the earth-dwellers, the non-believers – are those whose names have not been written in the *Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*. This is God's eternal plan, decreed in

ETERNITY PAST – which is focused on the sacrifice of God the Son, the perfect Passover Lamb.

How did the OT people know about the lamb slain?

They knew about God initiating the first sacrifice after Adam & Eve sinned. Gen. 3:21 - *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

Gen. 4:3-5 - *Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering.*

But then we read what David has written in Psa. 51...

Psa. 51:16-17 - *For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; you do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.*

Sacrifices without a repentant heart were of no avail. Malachi rebuked the children of Israel for offering sacrifices with no heart change. They offered polluted offerings – ceremonially unclean or blemished sacrifices (Mal. 1:7) – not obeying God’s commandment. They were profaning God’s name (Mal. 1:11-12).

Two significant words:

Atonement – Heb. word *kaphar* which means “to cover”. Atonement does not mean “to take away” or “removal”.

Tens of thousands of animals were ceremonially slaughtered within the sacrificial system for 1500 years. WHY?

The sacrifices vividly illustrated the seriousness of sin. However, these sacrifices were essentially like a bandage, only acting as a covering for sin. They did not, and could not, remove sin, as Hebrews 10:4 clearly states.

They also pointed forward in time to the only One that could remove sin—Jesus Christ who shed His precious blood to accomplish that purpose.

Heb. 10:10-12 - *And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. The phrase “take away” in verse 11 is translated from the Greek root *periaireo*, which does convey the idea of removal.*

We read of John the immerser’s words in John 1:29 when Jesus approached the Jordan River, *Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.*

Redemption - *ga’al* – “to regain possession of by payment” or “buy back something that was lost.” In the Old Testament, the verb “gā’al” has been translated as “to redeem”, “ransom”, and “do the part of a kinsman”. “Ga’al” also means “to avenge bloodshed” or “to require blood”, and has been translated as “avenge” or “revenge” (Num 35:19).

Redemption means “to buy back out of the marketplace” Slaves who were under bondage were bought and sold in the marketplace. Col. 1:13 tells us that when we’re “born again,” God takes us out of the kingdom of Satan and places us into the kingdom of

God. REDEMPTION – FORGIVENESS of sin – REMOVING sin – TAKING AWAY sin – is based upon, is rooted in the death of God the Son, Jesus!

The New Covenant which God had promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah would take away sin:

Jer. 31:33-34 - *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

At His last Passover Seder, Jesus took the third cup, the cup of Redemption and said, *Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the covenant, which is shed for many for the remission (the FORGIVENESS) of sins (Matt. 26:27b-28).*

The "blood of the covenant". What covenant?

The Abrahamic Covenant – God promised Abraham and his descendants land, seed (multiple descendants and THE Seed – the Messiah), and the blessing (salvation which would extend to all the families of the earth). The Abrahamic Covenant is the constitution of our salvation. The Abrahamic Covenant has not yet been fulfilled!

In Gen. 15:6 - *And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

BUT WHERE'S THE BLOOD?

Rom. 4:23-25 – Paul tells us that our salvation by faith is based on God's covenant with Abraham in which God credits Abraham's faith as righteousness. Within these three verses in Romans 4, Paul jumps from Abraham having faith - to the cross which produces forgiveness for our sins. But that's not an obvious connection. Where in God's covenant with Abraham do we find the cross?

For thousands of years, men cut covenants/made agreements - in blood. In the Middle East, the parties cutting covenant would take animals, cut them in two, and then take turns walking between the halves of the animals, stepping in and through the blood. The parties were committing to one another that they would uphold their part of the bargain. If one did not do so, the other person would do to him what they'd both done to the animals.

Gen. 15:4-21

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ...one who will come from your own body shall be your heir. (The promised to Abraham was about a SON) ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." ⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" ⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-

year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.¹³ Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.¹⁵ Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram,

AND, here we find the BLOOD – God’s promise that would come through Abraham BUT based on God’s swearing by HIMSELF – God’s walking through the ditch in the blood of the animals HIMSELF. Heb. 6:13 tells us that God, making this UNCONDITIONAL (no obedience on the part of Abraham and his descendants), BILATERAL (one-sided) covenant with Abraham, swore by HIMSELF. AND, ABRAHAM BELIEVED – TRUSTED in God’s promise (Gen. 15:6) – God’s promise BASED ON GOD’S BLOOD! In Acts 20:28, Paul encouraged the Ephesian Elders - *to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

AND, God’s provision in Scripture:

Gen. 22:8 – God will provide HIMSELF the lamb

Ex. 12 – We see the blood of the Passover lambs smeared on the doors of the homes who obeyed God’s instruction that night in Egypt

Isa. 53 – We understand that the Suffering Servant, the Messiah, Who would come in 700 years and *He would be wounded for our transgression, He would be bruised for our iniquities...the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

GOD’S provision IS based on the substitutionary death of God the Son. In GOD’S provision we have a life for a life. We were dead in our trespasses and our sins (Eph. 2:1)...Jesus gave His life so that we may have life.

When Joseph believed God’s promises – the provision of the blood had already been provided (Rev. 13:8; Gen. 15 – blood covenant). When Isaac believed, when Jacob believed, when Rahab believed, when Ruth believed, Nebuchadnezzar believed, the BLOOD COVENANT had already been cut. The OT people trusted in God and His promise - looking forward to the One Who would come and give His life, shedding His blood. And, in this truth/this PROMISE/this COVENANT is...the BLOOD!