



# *The Blood of the Lamb!*

*What is so special about the blood?*

Blood is the most unique among all the substances found in the human body. The book of Leviticus teaches, “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***” (Lev 17:11). What is blood atonement for the soul all about?

From another Leviticus passage we learn that every year on Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement (*meaning ‘day of reconciliation’*), the high priest was commanded to go into Holy of Holies. On that exclusive day in the year, he would take the blood of a bull and sprinkle it on the east side of the altar one time and then he would sprinkle the blood in front of the Ark of the Covenant seven times.

Approximately 3,500 years ago an entire nation was delivered through the power of blood! The Lord told Moses, “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb . . . 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year . . . ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and ***the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post*** of the houses, wherein they shall eat it” (Ex 12:1-7). We now know the outcome of that instruction; two million Israelites were delivered out of Egypt!



In order to understand the power contained in the blood, we need to comprehend the Biblical concept that ***“the life of the flesh is in the blood!”*** The first thing that God Almighty did when Adam and Eve sinned was to shed the blood of innocent animals that were in the Garden of Eden and use their skins for a covering. Through disobedience, mankind destroyed the intimate relationship that he shared with his Maker and therefore was in need of something through which he might restore a right relationship. However, it was not left to the man to figure out how he might restore the damaged relationship, Adam and Eve immediately realized their sin and recognized the need to be covered, “I was afraid, because ***I was naked;*** and I hid myself” (Gen 3:10). Although Adam and Even tried to cover themselves with leaves, covering was not left up to them; God alone established the method through which man’s sins could be canceled. Christians often use a religious sounding accounting term to describe the concept of “cancelled;” the expression they use is ***“Remitted.”*** In this vein, The Book of



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Hebrews teaches us that, “without shedding of blood is no **remission** (or canceling of sin).”

Blood (*the essence or substance of life*) was required for the remission (canceling) of sin. The Book of Genesis teaches that innocent blood was mandatory in order to cover the sins of Adam and Eve. An innocent living creature (*grasp the point that “the life of the flesh is in the blood”*) had to lose his life and thereby the innocence of that creature covered the one who had been sinful.

Many years later after delivering the children of Israel out of Egypt, God instructed Moses to construct a tabernacle. In the most Holy Place of that tabernacle there was a mercy seat, positioned on top of the Ark of the Covenant. It was upon this mercy seat where once a year the blood of atonement was sprinkled, “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**” (Lev 17:11).

In our culture we simply do not properly appreciate the fact that the essence of life is contained within blood! We all were reminded just a few short days ago when *Jessica Santillan* died from a botched transplant surgery. She was born with a heart deformity that kept her lungs from getting oxygen into her blood! The reason that Jessica died was because her body rejected the alien donor heart and lungs. Her body’s *blood type* was incompatible with the *blood type* of the donor. The transplant was an unfortunate mistake that led to death; I am sure Jessica’s heartrending death will now take on a new life of faultfinding. The point significant to our study is the realization of just how essential *blood* is! We cannot ignore the fact that *blood is essential to life!*

When Adam and Eve sinned, God reacted by taking the life of an innocent animal and through that act He essentially decreed that, since “**the life of the flesh is in the blood,**” therefore reconciliation or atonement for sin would require a life for life transference! The creature(s) that were killed for Adam and Eve covered only their original sin. Their act of sin caused them to take on the *sin nature*; God’s atonement covered their sin, but *it did not remove their new nature!* As God had cautioned, the result of receiving that *new nature*, left only one possible outcome for their lives, “and sin, when it is finished, **bringeth forth death**” (James 1:15). Because of the foreign *sin nature* that they received into their lives, they continued in sin for the rest of their natural lives until death. Of more importance to our understanding, we need to realize that Adam and Eve passed on this *sin nature* through blood to their offspring! In this context Paul wrote, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).

We all are under the penalty of death because of sin! Everyone carries this inherited nature, which leads everyone into sin. In order for mankind to experience any form of reconciliation with God, the Almighty allowed for a *temporary* substitute. God established that innocent animals could be sacrificed and their blood would temporarily atone for the sins of man. This covering of sin for mankind was established at the Garden of Eden and continued four thousand years. However, a mere temporary substitute was unacceptable to God. The reason is that through a temporary substitute the animal’s blood could not replace the *sin nature* in man!

Instead of a temporary substitute, God knew that there would need to be a permanent sacrifice for sin! The main problem was that there simply was no blood on the earth, which



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could be used for that permanent sacrifice! No human blood could be used as a permanent sacrifice because every man shared the same blood defect or *sin nature* from Adam

the father of us all! Since God decreed that mankind would rule the earth, “let them have dominion” (Gen 1:26), humanity with the help of God would somehow have to bring about some new uncontaminated blood source upon the earth.

Let me digress for just a moment back to Jessica’s rejection of organs which resulted from incompatible *blood types*. Do you know the source of Jessica’s *blood type*? It is a scientific fact unknown by many that the father always passes on his blood type to his children? A woman can nurture a child within her womb that has an entirely different blood type from her own! The point that we need to realize is that the *blood type always comes from the father!* Now remember, our father Adam’s blood type was contaminated.

Thankfully, God is omniscient and therefore He established a plan before the foundation of the world! God imbedded a strategy within His written word. His goal was to permanently redeem humanity! God caused prophets and holy men of old to speak and record in Scripture those proclamations necessary to produce a special occasion, place, and person (*the Messiah*). Jesus Christ appeared as the result of those words spoken by the prophets. After His miraculous birth at some point in His early life, Jesus read in the Scripture, “Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, ***I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,*** 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God” (Ps 40:6-8). He realized that those words in the volume of the book had been written specifically for Him! Our Lord Jesus, the Captain of our faith became aware of instructions for His life from God’s Word!

Regarding the concept of animal sacrifices, Paul reminded us of their limited temporary capacity, “But in those sacrifices there is a ***remembrance*** again made of sins ***every year***. 4 For ***it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should (permanently) take away sins***” (Heb 10:3-4). Paul is reminding us of the fact that the blood of bulls and goats was merely a temporary solution! Now notice the powerful connection that Paul established in the very next verse, “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, ***but a body hast thou prepared me***” (Heb 10:5). Paul received revelation in the context of a permanent sacrifice. It was revealed to him that the Word of God had decreed and in so doing “prepared” a body for the Messiah; that is why he wrote, “when he cometh into the world, he saith . . . a body hast thou prepared me” (Heb 10:5). But how was this body decreed through Scripture actually formed? Let us investigate the revealed process!

Now concerning the body which had been prepared for the Messiah; one of the prophets of old said, “the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, ***a virgin shall conceive***, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa 7:14). Young women by the millions conceive every single day; so how could this possibly have been a sign of the Messiah? The answer lies in the “word” that was given to Mary when she inquired how it was possible for her to conceive since she had never engaged in sex, “And the angel answered and said unto her, ***The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow*** thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). The Holy Spirit obviously came upon Mary when the “word” was given to her and as she agreed with that “word” she said, “be it unto me



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according to thy **word**" (Luke 1:38). Now notice Jesus' explanation to Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is **every one that is born of the Spirit**" (John 3:8). Like wind, the breath of God brought Adam to life, "and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen 2:7). In the same fashion, the "power of the Highest **overshadowed**" Mary. Overshadowed means that it breathed! Mary was conceived in the same way that everyone who is born-again, "suddenly there came a sound from heaven **as of a rushing mighty wind**, . . . And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and **began to speak** with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2-4). Every born-again person receives a *new nature* from the Father when they confess Jesus, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). As in Mary's begetal, the spoken "word" when agreed with, breathes new life into the recipient.

Like every human, Jesus got his blood type from His Father (*the Highest*); He received royal holy blood! Therefore, there was one major difference between His blood and ours; His blood was not tainted with the *sin nature*! Jesus received the incorruptible blood from the Father through the spoken word while our blood from Adam, has been contaminated with the *sin nature*!

As a result of His "incorruptible" blood having come from the Father, Jesus possessed eternal life even in His flesh! That means that it was utterly impossible for Him to die while He walked the face of the earth! The only possible way for Him to experience death was if He Himself choose to give up His life, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 **No man taketh it from me**, but **I lay it down** of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:17-18). There are many references to Jesus' life having been supernaturally protected, (1) in Luke 4, a crowd tried to push Him off of a cliff; He turned around and walked right through the crowd; (2) Mark records that Jesus was on a boat and the boat was full of water, "there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, **so that it was now full**. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?" These fishermen knew that ships full of water sink! Yet that ship somehow supernaturally did not sink! (3) The Jews wanted to stone Jesus; yet they could not, "31 Then the Jews **took up stones again to stone him** . . . 39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but **he escaped out of their hand**" (John 10:31-39). Again Jesus somehow supernaturally escaped. No man ever had authority over Jesus' life! When he was on trial, Pilate told Him, "knowest thou not that **I have power to crucify thee**" (John 19:10); to which Jesus responded, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, **except it were given thee from above**" (John 19:11).

Most do not realize it but there was one overwhelming and unique day in the history of the world when God, humanity and the devil were all in agreement together! On that renowned day the crowd cried, "**Crucify him**. 14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, **Crucify him**." (Mark 15:13-14). Through these words we conclude that the people clearly wanted Him crucified; it is obvious that the devils wanted Him out of the way; however, we must realize that even God the Father had a preference for His crucifixion, "For he (*God*) hath made him (*Jesus*)



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*to be sin for us*, who knew no sin (*because He was completely innocent*); that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor 5:21)! There has

never been a day like that one and there never will be a day like that again! The Father essentially said, "I want my children back! My Son, you will have to die to break the power of sin over them; and, on that day I will not look upon you!" On that day of peculiar agreement, Jesus offered His pure blood and became the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of



mankind. He truly was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev 13:8). John the Baptist introduced Jesus in that exact fashion: "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29).

During the Passover season, the father of each family would choose out a special lamb. The lamb would be carefully inspected for four days because it had to be a perfect specimen. The lamb would be set apart and therefore it would become a family pet during that short period. Christ also had to be observed for four days in Jerusalem prior to His

crucifixion. During those four days He was tested and asked many questions, but none could find fault with Him (Mt 21:23-27; 22:15-22, 33-46). This questioning culminates with Matthew 22:46, "And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions."

Can you imagine the thousands of Passover lambs which were sacrificed in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus? Josephus the famous Jewish historian wrote concerning the period of around 65 A.D., that "not less than three million" were present in Jerusalem. Even if one lamb could feed as many as ten people that would mean that at least 300,000 lambs would have to be sacrificed during the Passover season!

After the lambs were taken to the priests, how could God possibly know which lamb belonged to which family? We find the answer in a tradition among the Jews of that period; they would hang a bronze nametag around the neck of their family pet lamb. The nametag would earlier have been inscribed with the family name. In this fashion, the father of each family could be certain that his family name was distinguishable by God Almighty.

The Apostle John records that attached to Jesus' cross was a special inscription, "And **Pilate wrote a title**, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS" (John 19:19). For some strange reason, this title made the Jews particularly distressed and extremely unhappy, "Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, **Write not**, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews" (John 19:21).

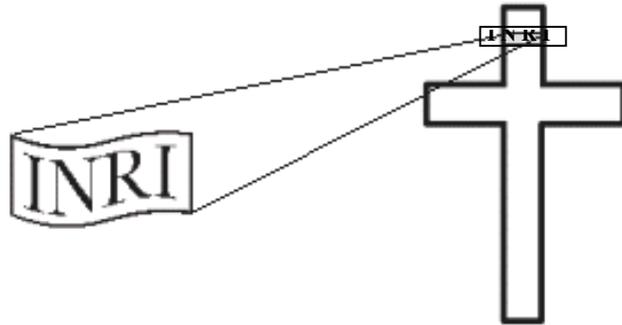
Why was the chief priest so unhappy with the title that Pilate had specified? We can go to the Catholics to get an answer to that question. In the Catholic tradition, Jesus' cross was inscribed with in Latin, "**I.N.R.I.**" That tradition regarding the inscription is very probably correct because the scripture teaches that Latin was one of the languages in which the



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inscription was written. In the Latin the inscription “I.N.R.I.” formed what is known as an acrostic. That Acrostic was a sequence of the first letters from the Latin words “*I*esys *N*azarenvs *R*ex *I*udaeorvm,” which in English transliterates to “Jesus Nazareth King Jews.” In our culture we unconsciously use acrostics in everyday language: the “National Aeronautic and Space Administration” forms the acrostic, “NASA;” “Radio Detecting and Ranging” forms the acrostic, “RADAR” to name just a few. Likewise the acrostic “I.N.R.I.” means: “I” stands for the first letter of the name Jesus which in Latin is “*I*esys;” the “N” would represent “*N*azarenvs” the Latin word meaning Nazareth; “R” represents “*R*ex” Latin for “king,” and “I” represents the Latin word “*I*udaeorvm” which is the word for Jews. Keep in mind this use of acrostics; we will return to this concept.



Jerusalem was an international city during the time of Jesus. It sat at the major crossroads of the known world; Europe was off in one direction; Asia in another direction; and Africa in yet a third direction. To accommodate everyone in this international city, Jesus’ inscription was written in three languages, “it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin” (John 19:20).

The use of acrostics is not limited to Latin and English. Every language uses this type of linguistic device. This is particularly true of the Hebrew Language. In fact among the Hebrews the use of acrostics is so common that almost everyone from that society would automatically notice whenever an acrostic was present. As we focus on the Hebrew, let’s recall that the chief priests were particularly upset by the words that were used, “Then said the *chief priests* of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews” (John 19:21). The reason that they were so upset was the natural acrostic which was formed by Pilate’s words. The literal English translation for the words would be: “Jesus of Nazareth, And King of the Jews.” The Hebrew translation for the exact thing would be: “Yehoshua Hanatzri Vemelech Hayhoodem.” When the Hebrew title was placed on the cross and in the proper direction (*the reader should realize that Hebrew is read from right to left*) the acrostic would appear as seen in the picture below.



י = Yehoshua; ה = Hanatzri; מ = Vemelech; כ = Hayhoodem

The Hebrew word “YHVH” is a tetragrammaton (*a Greek word meaning “a four lettered word”*). However, this tetragrammaton “YHVH” forms the ineffable (*unspeakable*) name of God. Now we can understand why the chief priests were so upset!

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We have already observed that as soon as the religious leaders saw the inscription they immediately and vehemently demanded that Pilate change the inscription.

However he replied, "What I have written I have written" (John 19:22). Whether or not



Pilate realized it, he was moved by God to write the words that he chose. God Almighty wanted His personal Lamb to be identified by the inscription nailed to His cross! God placed His own family name on His Lamb for the whole world to see just as all of the other Jewish families were bringing their lambs with their own family name on their bronze tags!

There is another little realized incident involving Pilate and his wife who earlier experienced a disturbing dream about

Jesus, "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, ***Have thou nothing to do with that just man:*** for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him." As a result, Pilate publicly washed his hands of all "guilt" regarding the crucifixion and he even announced, "I find ***in him no fault*** at all" (John 18:38); even Judas proclaimed Jesus' purity, "I have betrayed the ***innocent blood***" (Matt 27:4).

Pilate acted out a scene from the Law of Moses which I am sure most of the Jews recognized. The concept is found in the forepart of Deuteronomy chapter 21, "If one be found slain in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess . . . 2 Then thy elders and thy judges shall come forth . . . the elders of that city shall bring down the heifer . . . and shall strike off the heifer's neck there in the valley . . . And all the elders of that city, that are next unto the slain man, ***shall wash their hands*** over the heifer that is beheaded in the valley: 7 And they shall answer and say, ***Our hands have not shed this blood***, neither have our eyes seen it" (Deut 21:1-7). By taking part in an equivalent hand washing ceremony, Pilate declared to all mankind, "I will not be responsible for the ***innocent blood*** of this man!" When we consider his wife's dream and his hand-washing act, Pilate may have had a deep sense that Jesus may indeed have been the Son of God!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God offered His holy and pure blood one time on the altar of a cross. His offering was a once and for all offering, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but ***by his own blood*** he entered in ***once*** into the holy place, having obtained ***eternal redemption*** for us" (Heb 9:12). Jesus removed the veil of separation and we can go into the Most Holy Place; in actual fact when Jesus was crucified the veil that separated the two rooms was torn, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (Matt 27:50-51). Three days after Jesus was crucified, He entered into heaven to present Himself to God, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; ***but into heaven itself***, now ***to appear in the presence of God for us:*** 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the ***high priest*** entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then



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must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb

9:24-26).

When Jesus entered into the holy place he did so as our **High Priest**, “in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful **high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Heb 2:17). So what can we say, “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and **High Priest** of our profession, Christ Jesus” (Heb 3:1). When we consider Jesus our thoughts should parallel those of the Apostle Paul, “Seeing then



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that we have a great **high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an **high priest** which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. 5:1 For every **high priest** taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins” (Heb 4:14-5:1). Indeed we can see that God almighty prepared a body filled with His holy blood that it might become a sacrifice for us!

Therefore, we must consider the body and blood of Jesus, “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, **eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body**. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor 11:28-30).

Why was the blood supposed to be placed on the doorposts? To simply kill the lamb was not sufficient; the blood was effective only when it was faithfully applied to the doorposts. Using hyssop to brush lamb’s blood on the doorpost and lintel must have been thought of as a strange command for the Israelites. However, applying it to the doorposts symbolized that the people believed that God had spoken through Moses. The blood shed by the Passover lamb only benefited those who believed the message and applied the blood to the doorposts. To kill the lamb and not apply the blood would have had absolutely no effect. This is also true of God's Passover Lamb the Lord Jesus Christ. Though His death was sufficient to pay for the sins of the world, its regenerating effect is only useful to those who will believe and apply it to their own lives!



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We need to think like a rabbi for just a minute. The Jewish people had some strong and personal beliefs regarding the act of eating. The nature of eating to them was a personal thing. It was something more than merely being a source of sustenance. In a rabbinical sense, the very act of eating became a picture of personal faith; for forty years they ate manna in the desert. Eating the lamb was God's way of allowing every individual Jew to become personally involved with the Passover lamb. Not every one had a part in securing the lamb or observing the lamb or even killing the lamb. Though they may not have been used to strike the lamb's blood on the doorposts, they all would have a part in eating it. In this fashion, God's impressed upon the Jew, and indeed, upon the Christian, the necessity of becoming personally involved with the lamb. The eating of the lamb allowed the spiritual benefit of the blood on the doorposts to be applied to everyone. No one would eat the lamb for someone else.

Jesus said unmistakably to the Jews in the gospel of John that, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:53). Initially this concept seems rather cannibalistic; nevertheless, eating Jesus' flesh is extremely important. Just because Christ's death was sufficient to pay the sin debt of the entire human race does not mean everyone will be saved. Each individual must choose by faith to personally appropriate the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ to himself.

Understanding Jesus' teaching through symbolism is essential, "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt 26:26-28). We can easily see that Jesus was not telling anyone to drink literal blood or to eat literal flesh. He was simply saying that the cup and the bread were symbolic of His body and His blood which were given for the sins of humanity. Symbolically speaking:

- The thorns in His head released the **healing of our mind** or mental things we suffer!
- The stripes from the beating on His back released our **physical body healing!**
- The piercing of His hands, feet and side released the **blood of atonement for our sins!**

According to Paul, we must discern the whole body of Jesus Christ. Realize that on Yom Kippur or "the Day of Atonement" the **high priest** would take the blood of a bull and sprinkle it upon the Ark of the Covenant seven times. In this context, it is fascinating to note the order and occasions when Jesus shed His blood:

1. From His Face when His sweat became as blood while in the Garden;
2. From His Back & Body he was beaten at the order of Pilate;
3. From His Head through a crown of thorns;
4. From one Hand/Wrist by a spike driven through;
5. From the other Hand/Wrist by a spike driven through;
6. From His Feet (*both of which were nailed together*);
7. From His Side when a soldier pierced His ribs.



So what exactly does the blood from all of those wounds produce for us?

- "Being **justified** freely by his blood through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24);



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- "Forasmuch as you know that you were not *redeemed* with corruptible things like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received from the tradition of your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without spot or blemish" (1 Pet. 1:18-19);
- "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the *forgiveness of sins*" (Eph. 1:7);
- "the church of God, which he hath *purchased with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28);
- "to be a *propitiation* (*an atone that reconciles*) through faith in his blood" (Rom 3:25);
- "*made peace* through the blood of his cross, by him *to reconcile* all things unto himself" (Col 1:20);
- "by his own blood he *entered in once into the holy place*" (Heb 9:12);
- "he might *sanctify the people* with his own blood" (Heb 13:12);
- "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son *cleanseth us from all sin*" (1 John 1:7).

Jesus commanded that we are to partake of His blood, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and *drink his blood*, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and *drinketh my blood*, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and *my blood is drink indeed*. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and *drinketh my blood*, dwelleth in me, and I in him" (John 6:53-56).

Our lives are preserved because of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, "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*" (Lev 17:11).

Throughout the last 6,000 years we have learned that sin causes humanity to be led captive by a *sin nature* and then suffer death. The only way men were able to negate the power of sin was to come under some temporary blood sacrifice.

Yet, blood sacrifices never changed men's hearts! However, the blood of Christ changed everything because His blood has the power to set men free from sin and His Spirit changes men's hearts.

Jesus is the blood sacrifice for all humanity. He died upon the cross in total innocence as the worthy Passover sacrifice. Just as the first-born Jewish sons were passed over from the destruction of the death angel, likewise humans will be passed over from the destruction of the second death when they accept and confess the blood of Jesus over their lives!



**"Christ our passover is sacrificed for us!" (1 Cor 5:7)**

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