

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

Leviticus 4:6-7 • TV-237A

A television broadcast sermon delivered

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 1985

by

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Transcribed, edited and published

MARCH 15TH, 2011

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Zebulon Grace Church

6088 Zebulon Highway

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Leviticus 4: 6-7

“And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle of the blood seven times before the LORD, before the vail of the sanctuary. And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

Each Sunday morning our announcer says that the 13th Street Baptist Church invites you to listen to a sermon by their pastor. I’ve been a pastor of the 13th Street Baptist Church in Ashland Kentucky for over 30 years.

Last Wednesday night I brought a message to that congregation on the subject: **“THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD.”**

I had several people come to me after the service and say, “We wish you would put that message on television.” So, I plan today to bring you that message or a brief part of that message on the subject: **“THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD.”**

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I spent much time praying about this message and thinking about this message. I realize the importance of this message and I would like very much for you to give me your undivided attention for the next 26 or 27 minutes.

I have chosen for my text, a passage from the **Book of Leviticus**. If you have your Bible and you would like to read this portion of Scripture, I wish you would turn to **Leviticus Chapter 4**.

You really ought to read the first seven verses. I am not going to read that lengthy passage of Scripture. I'm only going to read two verses from **Leviticus Chapter 4: verses 6 and 7**. Listen carefully:

“And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle the blood seven times before the Lord, before the veil of the sanctuary. Then the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the Lord.”

You will notice in those two verses that I mention the blood. I mention the blood three times. From Genesis to Revelation, in nearly every chapter of God's Word, we meet the blood.

We meet the blood of Christ promised, the blood of Christ prophesied, we meet the blood of Christ pictured and we meet the blood of Christ shed from His own body on the tree. Then, we meet the apostles who were sent to preach the blood of Christ.

In Leviticus 17:11, Moses wrote; *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”* God said, *“I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”*

“It is the blood.” If you hear nothing else I say today, will you hear that? *“It is the blood that maketh atonement (at-one-ment, reconciliation) for the soul.”*

In Hebrews 9:22, the apostle Paul said, *“And almost all things, (nearly everything under the law), were purged with blood,”* such as the Book, the people, the tabernacle, altar, and the mercy seat.

Nearly everything was purged with blood. *“Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.”* There is no forgiveness.

In 1 John 1:7, the apostle John wrote; *“If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.”*

Peter writing in **1 Peter 1:18** says; *“For as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.”*

All the way from Genesis to Revelation, we meet with the blood, the blood atonement, the blood redemption, the blood sin-offering, and the blood sacrifice.

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

As I told our congregation, “If I have any apologies to make in reference to preaching about the blood of Christ, do you know what it would be?” My apologies would be that I don’t preach it as often as I should because *“it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”*

Let’s see if I can be a teacher, if God the Holy Spirit will enable me to be a teacher, and help you to understand the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ through the shedding of His blood. Here is my first question and I want you to listen carefully:

Why does the blood occupy such a prominent place in the Word of God? It is there and I just read you a few passages. It is the blood, the blood, the blood, all the way through the Book.

What does the shedding of blood mean all the way through the Scripture? There was a trail of blood that started in the Garden of Eden and was consummated on Calvary’s cross.

There were all the rivers of blood of animals, the bulls, goats, bullocks, and heifers that was shed. Finally, there was the blood of the Son of God Himself. Paul said to the elders of the church *“feed the church of God which God purchased with his own blood.”*

What does the shedding of blood mean in reference to God and men and in reference to sin and salvation? What does the shedding of blood mean?

In plain words (and I try to use plain, everyday words on this telecast), in plain words, the shedding of blood before the Lord as a sin offering and sacrifice means three things in the Scriptures. You can remember these three things if you listen carefully: What does the shedding of blood in the Scriptures mean in reference to God and men and reference to sin and salvation?

First of all: The shedding of His blood means that sin deserves death. This is a fact. The Scripture says, *“The wages of sin is death. The soul that sinneth shall surely die. Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.”*

So, the shedding of blood in Scripture is not just pain and discomfort, but death. When the lamb shed its blood, it was slain. When the bullock shed its blood, it was slain. The turtledove was slain. Our Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood unto death. He suffered unto death.

God is plainly saying this; sin deserves death and *“sin when it is finished bringeth forth death. The soul that sinneth it shall surely die.”*

Second: What does the shedding of blood in Scripture mean in reference to God and men and sin and salvation?

The only way that a holy, righteous, just God can pardon, forgive, and justify a sinner is for that sinner’s sins to be punished through suffering unto death. This is a fact; it is the only way that a holy God can be just and righteous.

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Some other god may forgive men on the basis of their deeds, on the basis of the religious works, or on the basis of their religious profession. They may forgive them on the basis of an ordinance, ceremony, or a religious ritual.

This is not the God of creation and not the God of heaven. He is a holy God, a righteous God and a just God. *“He must punish sin.”*

Abraham said, *“Shall not the Judge of the earth do right?”* He will do right. He will do justly, righteously, and He will act in a holy fashion in keeping with His perfect character. *“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness,”* absolutely no forgiveness.

In order to justify sinners God has to be God. He has to be just, a holy, and righteous God; He can do no other. *“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”*

Peter said this in **1 Peter 3:18**; *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God;”* in order that He might bring us to God. There is no other way to bring us to God.

Sin demands death and sin deserves death. Sin must be punished by death. So; *“Christ suffered the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but quickened and raised by the Spirit.”*

Have you ever read **Romans 3:25**? *“God set forth; (foreordained) His Son to be a propitiation through faith in His blood.”* The word *“propitiation”* means sin offering; that is a mercy seat.

His Son took a body of flesh, body, and bones. He died and shed that blood that through faith in His blood, *“God might be just and the justifier of them that believe in Christ.”*

There are two reasons why the Scripture often refers to the blood and the shedding of blood. There are two things that the Scripture shows you where the blood has reference to sin and salvation. Sin deserves death. A holy God cannot forgive sin without sin being punished.

Third: The blood of the lambs in the Old Testament could not take away sin. A lot of people have this idea (and I don't know where they get it) but they think that people in the Old Testament were saved by bringing those blood and animal sacrifices. Now, we are saved by looking to the blood of Christ.

Bringing those sacrifices cannot save! Listen to Paul in **Hebrews**, (if Paul is the writer), in **Hebrews 10:4** it says; *“It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin.”* It plainly states that it is not possible.

“If these sacrifices had put away sin they would have ceased to have been offered.” The person who brought the sacrifice, (if that animal blood could put away sin), wouldn't have any more

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

conscience of sin. He would not have any awareness of sin. Sin being put away would need no other sacrifices.

All of these sacrifices were made one right after the other. There were thousands upon thousands. Animals were slain and blood was shed. Why? All of these sacrifices in which all of this blood was shed is a picture, pattern, and type of the blood of Christ and the death of the Lamb of God.

**“Blessed be the fountain of blood
To a world of sinners revealed.
Blessed be the dear Son of God
Only by His stripes we are healed.”**

I’m saying this, my friend; this trail of blood that you can trace through the Word of God began in the Garden of Eden and it came to a close on Calvary’s Cross.

God shed the blood of an animal in the Garden of Eden to cover the nakedness of a fallen man and his wife. When they sinned against God and fell into sin, the Lord slew an animal and made coats of skin to cover their nakedness. Blood was shed because of sin.

Then, there was Abel, who was instructed by his father Adam, who brought a blood sacrifice when he came to worship the Lord God. Right out of the Garden of Eden, the first sacrifice we meet with is the blood of the lamb.

Abraham slew a lamb and put it on an altar in the place of his son. Every year the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies with the blood and put that blood on the mercy seat. All of these sacrifices and all of these sin offerings stood as a picture and a pattern until the blessed Lamb of God came.

One day, John the Baptist said, (as he pointed toward Jesus of Nazareth); *“Behold the lamb of God.”* There’s the promised lamb, there is the prophesied lamb. There is the lamb that we have been talking about all of these centuries.

There is the Lamb that God said would come and bruise the serpent’s head. There is the Lamb that would fulfill every promise, every prophecy, every picture and every type. There is the Lamb of God; *“Behold the Lamb of God.”*

I will tell you this; let’s don’t get so modern, refined, and religious, that we are ashamed to preach, teach, and talk about the blood of the Son of God. I am telling you *“It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.”*

Let’s sing those old songs such as, **“There’s Power in the Blood.”**

**“What Can Wash Away My Sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?”**

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

**“There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.**

**Dear dying lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Til all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.”**

If there is no blood there is no Gospel. I don’t care how you spell it; if there is no blood there is no Gospel.

If there is no blood there is no access to God. We have opened for us in the presence of God, a new and living way, by the blood of Jesus Christ.

If there is no blood, there is no salvation. There is no forgiveness, no atonement, no reconciliation, and no forgiveness of sin and pardon without the shedding of blood.

I want you to remember three things that I am going to give you. If you want to go ahead and write them down. I am going to go back and read the text again from **Leviticus Chapter 4: verses 6 and 7**. I want you to remember these three things which are rarely preached today.

I was brought up in a church. I went to church most all of my life. I went to a Preacher’s School and even pastored a church for a little while. I didn’t hear these things preached. Here are the three things that need to be preached. You need to think about them and consider them:

First of all: The blood atonement was always made before the Lord and unto the Lord. This is true. Look at how many times we read this in **Leviticus 4:**

In **verse 3** it says; *“The priest shall bring the bullock before the Lord.”* In **verse 4** it says; *“He shall slay the bullock before the Lord.”* In **verse 6** it says, *“He shall sprinkle the blood before the Lord.”* In **verse 7**, *“He shall put the blood on the altar before the Lord.”*

In other words, when these people brought the lamb and slew the lamb, they burned its carcass and took the blood and put it on the altar or on the mercy seat. This was not done before the people, not as a show or ritual. They brought the blood before the Lord.

They slew the lamb before the Lord. They burned the carcass before the Lord. They put the blood before the Lord. They put their hands on the head of the scapegoat and confessed their sins before the Lord.

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

About the only way that we hear the death of Christ preached today is as an example. Christ is our example, no doubt about that.

We even hear the death of Christ preached as an offer to sinners. They say, “He did this for you; will you do something for Him? Jesus Christ came and died for you and did this for you and did this toward you; won’t you now do something for Him?”

My friend; listen to me; you have missed it if you have missed this; “The blood of Jesus Christ is a blood atonement, sacrifice, and a sin offering before the Lord.” It was made unto the Lord. It was also made before the Lord.

He died unto the Lord; He died for us and in reference to us and in our stead. His death was before the Lord in order that God Almighty might deal in mercy and grace with us and not in justice.

The blood of Christ was the blood of a substitute. He took our place before God’s wrath. He took our place before God’s justice, which must be satisfied.

He took our place before God Almighty’s throne of righteousness and holiness. All of the judgment and wrath of God fell upon Him. He paid the debt that we owed.

The blood of Christ was the blood of atonement. It was a blood of reconciliation. “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.*” Do you see what I am saying?

When God came through the land of Egypt, He said; “*At midnight; I will pass through the land of Egypt and I will slay the firstborn in every home.*”

God said, “*Moses instruct the people to kill a lamb and to burn its carcass and eat it and to take the blood of the lamb, (which is typical of Christ and is a picture of Christ), and put it on the outside of the door and all of you go inside the house and stay there. When I see the blood; I will pass over you.*”

I have been showing you this all the way through the Scriptures. He did not tell them to put it on the inside of the door for the people to look at or to be encouraged by or for the people to be satisfied with.

I will tell you this; throughout the whole Old Testament these sacrifices and sin offerings were made before the Lord; they were made unto God.

I say over and over to you, to understand the Gospel you must get acquainted with two words. The first word is substitute. Christ was our substitute before God. “*He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. By His stripes we are healed.*”

“*He took our sins in His body on the tree.*” He literally became flesh; “*He became numbered with the transgressors.*” He became identified with us.

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He was one with us in flesh and bones. Jesus Christ came into this world as our Substitute before God's holy throne, before God's righteous law, before God's holy justice, He was our Substitute. When God poured out His wrath on us, it fell on Christ. God's law was honored in the obedience of Christ and God's justice was satisfied in the death of Christ.

The second word is satisfaction. Our substitute made satisfaction to God.

If I owe a big debt down at a store and owe seven or eight thousand dollars at that store; I owe that store. That store has a claim on me. That store has a claim on me personally because I owe a debt.

If you pay that debt, to whom do you pay it? You don't pay me. You don't go around in front of me waving the money and saying; "Here's the money; go down and pay the proprietor, the owner of the store."

He is the one to whom I am indebted. He is the one holding the paper. He is the one who is angry. He is the one who has been sinned against. You pay him and you don't pay me.

What I am saying to you is this; the death of Jesus Christ, God's substitute, God's Son, and my representative and Saviour, was before the Lord.

His death was not to get a bunch of people to feel sorry for Him. Paul the apostle said in **Romans 8**; "*There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ.*" Why? The condemnation fell on Him. "*Who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect?*" Why not, they charged Him?

"*Who can condemn us?*" What is the answer to that? The answer is "*Christ has died.*" There is no condemnation anymore because Christ died.

Third: The blood atonement in the Old Testament and the blood atonement of Christ gives power to His intercession, the intercession of Christ.

Do you know what the word intercession means? It means that there is one person pleading for another, or that there is an advocate or a mediator. "*There is one God and one mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.*"

The man Christ Jesus, according to **Hebrews**, "*must have somewhat to offer.*" Listen to **Hebrews 8:3**; "*Every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices. Wherefore, it is necessary that Christ, this man, Jesus Christ our high priest, have somewhat to offer.*" He does. What does He have? He has His own blood.

Look at **Leviticus 4:7**; "*And the priest shall slay the bullock before the Lord (shed the blood before the Lord).*" *And the priest shall put the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the Lord.*"

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

What is the incense in the Old Testament tabernacle? What is the altar of incense? The incense was kept burning all the time. The smoke ascended to heaven all the time, 24 hours a day, and 365 days a year.

What is this a picture of? This is a picture of the intercession of Christ, the prayers of Christ on behalf of His people.

What are the horns of the altar? Anyone who knows much about the Scripture knows that the horns mean power. That is what the horns stand for, power.

The priest would take the blood and wouldn't put it directly on the altar of sweet incense but they would put it on the horns. What they meant by this was that the power of intercession is in the blood.

Christ Jesus our Lord, by His blood, showed His oneness with us. The children partaking of flesh and blood, along with their Redeemer, must also partake of flesh and blood.

His blood shows this; payment for sins. Where is it? Is it in His veins? No sir; it was shed on that cross and He paid for our sins. His blood shows the fulfillment of the entire Covenant, all of the Old Testament. *"He died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and rose again according to the Scriptures."*

Fourth: His blood gives power to His intercession. *"This man, our great high priest has somewhat to offer."* He has somewhat to offer.

What does He have to offer? *"He entered not into the holy place made with hands but into heaven itself, not with the blood of bulls and goats, but with His own (precious) blood."*

He did it to make an effectual offering, an effectual atonement, and an effectual sin offering that put an end to all sin offerings, sacrifices, and all the blood shedding. The blood of the Son of God has fulfilled it all. He paid every debt and satisfied perfectly the justice and holiness of His Father.

Fifth: The blood of Christ gives acceptance to our worship and enables us to come before God.

You can pray, "Our Father." Why? The reason is because Christ has died and has shed His blood. Listen to this; *"Seeing then, that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens."*

I'm not talking about Rome, downtown Ashland, Huntington, or Charleston. He is at the right hand of God. *"We have a high priest who has passed into the heavens."* Who is it? It is Jesus Christ the Son of God.

"Therefore; let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we might find mercy and grace to help in time of need: having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest, by the blood of Jesus Christ." Without the blood of Christ there is no forgiveness and no salvation!

THE BLOOD BEFORE THE LORD

LEVITICUS 4:6-7 • HENRY T. MAHAN

This is a fit note in which to close this message; praise God for His blood!