



“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,” Hebrews 9:12.

Blood Redemption

Lesson Aim: To set forth the Bible truth that sinners are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

L304. Date: September 1974. **Text:** Romans 3:21-25; Hebrews 9:11-14.
Topic: Christ: Blood of; Redemption: By 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. Oh! precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus”—Robert Lowry.

Those familiar words of a grand old hymn express a truth repeatedly set forth in the Bible: “. . . **without shedding of blood is no remission,**” Hebrews 9:22. That truth is defined, explained, and emphasized throughout all Biblical revelation. It is the very heart of God's method of dealing with sin. It is the explanation of the redemptive deed of Jesus. It is the only way by which you can know forgiveness, cleansing, and salvation from sin.

The doctrine of blood redemption has been grossly neglected in religious circles. Some have openly denied its necessity. Others have quietly ignored its imperative. A number have expressed acceptance of its truth but have not insisted upon its application to sinners. Take care that you are not misled at this point. Men may neglect, but God still insists that “without shedding of blood is no remission.”

Today's study aims “to set forth the Bible truth that sinners are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.”

BLOOD REDEMPTION DEFINED

God's Word makes many references to redemption. Familiar passages include the following: **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but with the precious blood of Christ . . .”** I Peter 1:18-19. **“...Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood . . .”** Revelation 5:9. **“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law . . .”** Galatians 3:13. **“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”** Romans 3:24. What is redemption?

To redeem means to set free by the payment of a price. It is best understood against a background of slavery. In ancient times, a slave could be freed if a freeman would purchase him by paying an appropriate price and give him freedom. Such an act would deliver one from a life often marked by vile bondage and degrading servitude. It was a deliverance which one could not perform for himself but would bring great joy when performed in one's behalf.

The Bible pictures the sinner in bondage to sin. He is a helpless bonds slave, unable to free himself. It also pictures Jesus Christ's coming into the slave market, purchasing the sinner with the price of His own life so that He might set him free. Those who are trusting Jesus' atoning deed for deliverance have entered into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

BLOOD REDEMPTION REQUIRED

The magnitude of grace shown in redemption is not seen until man recognizes the depth of his need to be redeemed. We might say, “Man sinned against God. That is why he needed to be redeemed.” It is more serious than such a statement suggests.

Consider sin's effect upon man. It brought death! Genesis 3 records the entrance of sin into the human experience. It also records God's pronouncement of physical death upon man; **“... Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,”** Genesis 3:19. The Lord further declared, **“... And so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,”** Romans 5:12. That was not all the effect sin had upon man.

Spiritual death (separation from God), as well as physical death, came upon man as a consequence of his sin. Genesis 3:24 tells how God “drove out the man” from the Garden of Eden. Man's hiding from the presence of God (Genesis 3:8) indicated that he was no longer in fellowship and spiritual harmony with God. Such a separation was spiritual death. Man needs redemption because sin brought both physical and spiritual death to him. He needs deliverance from both.

Consider sin's effect upon God. Sin is rebellion against God. It is the

transgression of His law. It is a denial of His sovereignty and a violation of His holiness. God must respond to sin in order to uphold righteousness and to affirm justice. Man's sin affected God, too.

God's response to man's sin is "wrath." **"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men . . ."** Romans 1:18. "Wrath of God" indicates God's settled opposition to sin. It is an attitude to uphold right, not an emotion to defend self. God's wrath—opposition to sin—necessitated a just dealing with the problem. Justice demanded, **" . . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die,"** Ezekiel 18:4. God's wrath must be removed for the sinner to be received before Him. Sin affects God, too.

Herein lies the necessity of redemption. If man could be brought out of his sin, by a just method, God's wrath would be turned away. The deliverance of the sinner must be in a manner that God will be just in justifying him. Therein lies the necessity of blood redemption.

God made a sufficient provision to meet the demands of justice and the helplessness of sinners. It is expressed in Leviticus 17:11, **"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 atonement for the soul."** God decreed that He would accept the life of an innocent victim as a substitute for the life of a guilty sinner. Redemption would be by the shedding of blood.

BLOOD REDEMPTION ILLUSTRATED

A system of religion was established in Israel to declare daily the principle of blood redemption. An elaborate ritual of the offering of animal sacrifices marks the religious history of Israel. Leviticus 1-7 records instructions on the offering of the burnt offering, meat offering, peace offering, sin offering, trespass offering, and peace offering. Many of those offerings involved the shedding of blood. It was God's picture of the way of redemption from sin.

The classic illustration of redemption by blood is seen in the Hebrew ritual of the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16). Two goats were brought before the high priest of Israel. He laid his hands upon them and confessed the sins of the nation. In symbol, he was transferring the sins of the people to the animals. One animal was killed. In substance, he died as a penalty for Israel's sins. His blood was sprinkled in the Most Holy Place, before the Mercy Seat, as a testimony to God that justice (death) had been meted out upon sin. The second goat was taken far away from the camp, so far as to

assure that he would never return, and released. The symbol to Israel was that God was satisfied with the blood atonement and that her sins were taken away so as to be held against her no more forever.

Hebrews 9:1 underscores that the Day of Atonement was God's picture of blood redemption. It applies the same work to Jesus Christ as was performed by the high priest. The work of Jesus was perfect; that of the Hebrew priest was partial. The annual Day of Atonement, because it was a picture, was repeated many times. The actual atonement effected by Jesus Christ, because it was reality, was performed once for all time. What was pictured in the Old Testament is performed perfectly in the New Testament.

BLOOD REDEMPTION PERFECTED

Keep in mind the picture of the Day of Atonement in the ancient Hebrew worship. In that light, read Hebrews 9:1—10:18. Behold the perfection of the atoning work of Jesus Christ!

The ancient Hebrew priest entered into an earthly sanctuary. He took the blood of a sacrificed animal to sprinkle before God. He had to repeat the ceremony once each year. He made only a remembrance of sins, moving them forward year by year in view of the eventual perfect sacrifice. He could not “make perfect, as pertaining to the conscience,” those who shared his worship ritual. His activities were a reminder that the way into the holiest of all was not then open to men. All the ritual indicated that a time of fulfillment of the symbols was coming.

Jesus Christ came as the fulfillment of the pictures of the Old Testament sacrificial system. He entered into heaven itself, not an earthly sanctuary. He took His own precious blood, not the blood of a sacrificed animal. He performed the deed of redemption only one time, not over and over. He made a true atonement for sins, not a mere remembrance. He perfected forever those who receive His redemption, not merely pictured perfection. Jesus paid it all!

Learn well the lesson of Hebrews 9, 10. **“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins,”** 10:4. On the other hand, **“... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all,”** 10:10. **“For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified,”** 10:14. Jesus Christ has “obtained eternal redemption” for those who trust Him (9; 12). In view of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God promised all believers, **“... I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more,”** 10:16, 17. Hebrews 9-10 teaches that those who trust

Jesus as personal Savior have complete forgiveness and eternal security upon the basis of the blood redemption accomplished in His death.

“Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?”—Elisha A. Hoffman.

BLOOD REDEMPTION EXPERIENCED

Are you saved? If so, here is how God describes what has happened: **“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ,”** I Peter 1:2. You were chosen by God the Father, sanctified by God the Holy Spirit, and redeemed by God the Son. The very foundation of salvation is “the blood of Jesus Christ.” If you are saved, it is because you have received the benefits provided in the sacrifice of Jesus.

There is cleansing in Jesus' blood. **“... The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin,”** I John 1:7. Receiving the application of His blood through faith, the believer finds his conscience is purged, and he is able to serve God (Hebrews 9:14).

There is reconciliation in Jesus' blood. **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace,”** Ephesians 1:7. To forgive means “to lift and carry away.” The way the Lord redeems (delivers) sinners is by lifting and carrying away their sins. That miracle is made possible only because Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and is our living Savior.

There is reconciliation in Jesus' blood. **“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,”** Romans 3:23. Sin created a spirit of enmity (Romans 8:7) in which man became an enemy toward God (Romans 5:10). Jesus died to remove the division which kept man from God. **“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life,”** Romans 5:10. Jesus' redemptive sacrifice removed the enmity and restored harmony between God and the repenting, believing sinner.

There is access to God through Jesus' blood. Paul wrote of Jesus as the One **“... by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand ...”** Romans 5:2. He added, **“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,”** Ephesians 2:13. Only the high priest of Israel could enter the Most Holy Place once each year when he presented the blood of a sacrificed animal. Consider what

Jesus' sacrifice does for us. **“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh,”** Hebrews 10:19-20. When you pray “in Jesus' name” or “for Jesus' sake,” you are coming into God's presence upon the basis of the blood redemption provided in Jesus Christ.

There is victory in Jesus' blood. How can Satan be overcome? Revelation 12:11 answers, **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony . . .”** How was it made possible? Jesus died **“. . . that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage,”** Hebrews 2:14-15.

Look back to Romans 3:21-25 and examine what it says about God's provision of blood redemption for sinners: (1) The revelation of redemption—**“the righteousness of God . . . is manifested,”** verse 21. (2) The reception of redemption—**“by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe,”** verse 22. (3) The need of redemption—**“for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,”** verse 23. (4) The essence of redemption—**“being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”** verse 24. (5) The basis of redemption—**“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood,”** verse 25. (6) The validity of redemption—**“that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus,”** verse 26.

“Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed thro' His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am. Redeemed, redeemed, Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed, redeemed, His child, and forever, I am”—Fanny J. Crosby.

You, too, can know the redemption which God has provided in Jesus. Honestly repent of your sins. Ask Jesus to come into your heart to forgive and cleanse. Believe that He does so in view of what He did upon Calvary. The deed is done!

Questions

1. What is redemption?
2. Why is redemption necessary?
3. What is the wrath of God?

4. How does Leviticus 17:11 explain blood redemption?
5. How did the Day of Atonement illustrate redemption?
6. How did Jesus fulfill the picture of the Day of Atonement?
7. What does Hebrews 10:1-14 mean to you?
8. How does Jesus' blood cleanse us from sin?
9. What does forgiveness mean?
10. With whom can you share the message of redemption this week?