

The Blood Atonement

INTRO:

The whole of the Old Testament, points toward the Great Sacrifice that was to come—that of Jesus' sacrificial giving of His own life on our behalf.

Leviticus 17:11 is the Old Testament's central statement about the significance of blood in the sacrificial system. God, speaking to Moses, declares: "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."

Old Testament beginnings. Exodus 12:1-13

OT. shall make atonement

יָכַפֵּר (wə·kip·per)

Strong's 3722: To cover, to expiate, condone, to placate, cancel

NT. make atonement

ἱλάσκεσθαι (hilaskesthai)

Strong's 2433: (a) To have mercy on, show favor to, (b) trans. with object of sins: To forgive, pardon.

I. **PURCHASED BY BLOOD. Acts 20:28 NKJV**

- A. The apostle Paul addresses the elders.
- B. It took the blood of Jesus to purchase our salvation.
- C. As the ultimate sacrificial lamb Jesus' blood was predestined to be shed.
John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

II. **POWER IN THE BLOOD. Romans 3:25 NKJV**

²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation (**appeasement or satisfaction**) by His blood,

- A. Jesus is our propitiation (satisfaction) by his blood.
- B. Forbearance is temporary. The bill had to be paid.
- C. ILL: Student loan forbearance has a time limit.
- D. Because God is longsuffering.
 - For centuries God exercised patient restraint. "The Lord is not slow concerning His promise... but is patient with you" (2 Peter 3:9).
 - Acts 17:30 notes that "God overlooked the times of ignorance," displaying a kindness meant to lead to repentance (Romans 2:4).
 - This forbearance magnifies the grace finally unveiled at the cross.
- E. He had passed over the sins committed beforehand.

- Old-covenant believers were forgiven on credit, looking ahead to the coming sacrifice. “For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant... to redeem those under the first covenant” (Hebrews 9:15).
 - Annual sacrifices “could never, by the same sacrifices... make perfect” (Hebrews 10:1), yet God withheld judgment until the true Lamb arrived.
 - Psalm 103:10 captures this mercy: “He has not dealt with us according to our sins.” The cross retroactively satisfies the debt those earlier sins incurred.
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F. **Summary-Romans 3:25**

III. **RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE BLOOD. Romans 5:9 NKJV**

A. **[since] we have now been justified**

δικαιωθέντες (dikaiōthentes)

Strong's 1344: From dikaios; to render just or innocent.

- B. - “Justified” means God has already declared believers righteous—this is a finished reality, not a future hope.

1. Romans 3:24

2. 1 Corinthians 6:11

- C. - The basis is “His blood,” pointing to Christ’s literal, substitutionary sacrifice.
-1Peter 1:18-19

IV. **FORGIVENESS IN THE BLOOD. Ephesians 1:7 NKJV**

A. **forgiveness**

ἄφεσιν (aphesin)

Strong's 859: A sending away, a letting go, a release, pardon, complete forgiveness. From aphemi; freedom; pardon.

- B. “The blood of Jesus Christ, [Gods] Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7)
C. God doesn’t forgive sparingly; He forgives “according to” (in proportion to) His infinite wealth of grace.

V. **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS. Hebrews 9:12-14; 9:22 NKJV**

- A. The **final sacrifice** has arrived. V12
B. The ‘much more’ work of Christ. V13-14
C. The **law** prescribed blood as a means of purification. 9:22
D. Jesus’ blood is essential for our **salvation**. 9:22