

Blood

Leviticus Chapter 17

Lev 17:1 **1) Sacrifice and the Blood** vs 1-9

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 17:2 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, 'This is what the LORD has commanded, saying,

Lev 17:3 "Any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or who slaughters it outside the camp,

Lev 17:4 and has not brought it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to present {it} as an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, bloodguiltiness is to be reckoned to that man. He has shed blood and that man shall be **cut off** from among his people.

- In this day, pagan religion allowed their devotees the practice of sacrifice any where they felt they desired to sacrifice. Individuals would sacrifice to their gods in open fields or at their homes.
- The Lord is commanding Israel to bring the sacrifice to the tabernacle and have the priest perform the offering. God is causing Israel to worship differently than the pagans around them.
- God wants Israel to realize that there is one place of worship. That there is one God. There is one people of God.
- God doesn't want them to be tempted to set up their own form and place of worship.

Lev 17:5 "The reason is so that the sons of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they were sacrificing in the open field, that they may bring them in to the LORD, at the doorway of the tent of meeting to the priest, and sacrifice them as sacrifices of peace offerings to the LORD.

- God has had Israel build a place of meeting. This is where he wanted them to meet to make offerings. Not in the "open field"

Lev 17:6 "The priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting, and offer up the fat in smoke as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Lev 17:7 "They shall no longer sacrifice their sacrifices to the goat demons with which they play the harlot. This shall be a permanent statute to them throughout their generations."

- Practice learned in Egypt.
- 1 Corinthians 10:19-21 "What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."
- A Permanent Statute - is a never ending never changing Concept. No Sacrifices to Idols or demons.

Lev 17:8 "Then you shall say to them, 'Any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice,

Lev 17:9 and does not bring it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to offer it to the LORD, that man also shall be **cut off** from his people.

- "Cut Off" - Sometimes death, sometimes exile. This seems to be associated with Idolatry. This would be a death sentence. (Genesis 9:11 The flood described by God as the people of the earth being "cut off" (*destroyed*) by the flood)
- Israel and Aliens - This applies to anyone who associates themselves with the camp of Israel.
- Leviticus 18-20 we will see a number of prohibitions that will carry a death penalty

2) Eating the Blood vs 10-13

'And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood and will **cut him off** from among his people.'

- God prohibits the eating of blood. In the next few chapters there will be many prohibitions listed one after another. But this one concerning blood is separated and given special attention.



- This is important.
- DO NOT EAT BLOOD - This has been taken to mean a number of things. From cooking meat thoroughly, to not eating meat to not having blood transfusions.
 - The context is pagan ritual of blood sacrifices (verses 1-9) This eating blood is describing the intentional eating blood as a food source or as a pagan ritual.
 - Mongol Warriors travelled with 3 horses. One to ride and two to eat and drink the blood.
 - Masai of Tanzania still drink blood for nourishment.
 - There is blood pudding, Blood Sausage, Dinuguan (pork blood stew)
 - As for a blood transfusion, first a blood transfusion as a medical procedure is not the same as someone intentionally eating blood for nourishment or as a religious ritual.
 - 1 Timothy 5:23 demonstrates Paul acknowledges methods of medical treatment has exception to other prudent counsel. In this case it is wine for the stomach sake. *"No longer drink water {exclusively,} but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments."*
- God says He will set His face against the person who eats blood.
- Acts 15:28-29 *"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."*

'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

- Life of the flesh is in the blood.
 - Blood Carries Oxygen to brain and muscle tissue.
 - Blood delivers essential nutrients to all areas of the body
 - Blood transports carbon Dioxide and other waste products to the lungs, liver and digestive system
 - Carries White cells that regulate immunities
 - Detects foreign material by Antibodies.
 - Blood Helps fight infection of open cuts with Platelets.
 - Blood maintains body temperature.
 - Blood is the hydraulic fluid for muscle tissue to work
 - Regulates body pH
 - Carries hormones that signal tissue damage. (Amazing)
- While these are critical for our physical life, God says it is critical for spiritual life because He has chosen blood as the only vehicle for atonement for our souls.
- Romans 3:25 *"God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."*
- Romans 5:9 *"now been justified by His blood"*
- Ephesians 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood"*

- Colossians 1:20 "made peace through the blood of His cross"
- Hebrews 9:14 "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"
- Hebrews 13:12 "He might sanctify the people through His own blood"

Lev 17:12 "Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, 'No person among you may eat blood, nor may any alien who sojourns among you eat blood.'

Lev 17:13 **3) Respect the Blood** vs 13-16

"So when any man from the sons of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, in hunting catches a beast or a bird which may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth.

- Hunters need to show respect for the blood. The hunter after a kill should drain the blood there in the field and cover the blood with dirt. This is out of respect for the blood.

Lev 17:14 "For {as for the} life of all flesh, its blood is {identified} with its life. Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, 'You are not to eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood; whoever eats it shall be cut off.'

Lev 17:15 "When any person eats {an animal} which dies or is torn {by beasts,} whether he is a native or an alien, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and remain unclean until evening; then he will become clean.

- Animals that die because of another beast attack, or an accident the one who carries it home and eats it is unclean until bathing and until evening.

Lev 17:16 "But if he does not wash {them} or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt."

- Again a standard out of respect for the blood.
- Hebrews 10:29-31 "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

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What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain

Now by this I'll overcome—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
Now by this I'll reach my home—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain

Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain