

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD
Zechariah 12:10-13:1

This text is from Zechariah's last prophecy to Jerusalem and he is dealing with the rebuilding of the Temple. In a broader sense he stresses the judgment of God.

"In that day..." is used nine times in just two chapters!

Zechariah is rich with Messianic prophecies; prophecies that foretell something about Jesus of Nazareth who is the One sent by God; the Messiah!

9:9	The triumphal entry
11:12-13	The betrayal for thirty pieces of silver
12:10	His side pierced
13:6	His nail-pierced hands
13:7	smite the Shepherd...

Verse 13:1 is pregnant with promise.

On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

Two of the greatest hymns of the Church were inspired by this verse:

Augustus Toplady's, "Rock of Ages," has:

"...be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure."

William Cowper's "There is a Fountain"

The aim of every true preacher of the Gospel is to present "the Gospel!"

An article by Dr. John Robbins reminded me again of what a mess some men, well meaning I'm sure, have made of preaching what they think is the gospel. There are some popular themes and phrases that you often hear that these men insist will bring you to salvation.

Pay attention! They are not the Gospel!

The Gospel is not:

"You must be born again."

"Obey Christ in baptism."

"You must be filled with the Holy Spirit."

"You must be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

"You must speak in tongues."

"You must be saved."

"Let Jesus into your heart."

"You must have an experience {relationship} with Christ."

"Repent."

"Expect a miracle."

"Put Jesus on the throne of your life."

"Jesus set an example for us so that we may follow Him to heaven."

"Trust Jesus."

"Let Go and Let God."

"Decide for Christ."

"Make Jesus Lord of your life."

"Jesus is coming again."

There is something to be learned in all of those statements, and there is truth in them all, but I repeat, they are not the Gospel!

1 Cor 15:3-4 is a clear statement of the gospel.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

This is Zechariah's FOUNTAIN in 13:1

On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

The O.T. Hebrew has several words that are translated fountain in English:

A dug pit; a spring; but the word used here is a **perpetual spring** of water, or a fountain of blood, of life, of wisdom.

What does blood mean to you?

Physically: Blood is God's method in creation of supplying oxygen and food to every part of your body. The heart pumps it out and as it courses through the circulatory system it carries the wastes of the body to various excretory channels, the liver, kidneys, etc.

Healthy blood is essential to life and health.

Spiritually: Because of God's design in creation in making blood so vital in the physical realm, He chose blood to represent spiritual life.

How does God impress the minds of men?

It is not God's fault that men are so dull in our time that blood does not have a spiritual meaning. No wonder, life has lost its value too! Murder, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and suicide all result from the loss of respect for life.

What does the Bible teach about blood?

Gen 3:21

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. [Blood had to be shed to provide the skins.]

Gen 4:10

And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground...."

Gen 9:1-6

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

Lev 17:11

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

Lev 17:14

For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life.

The Old Testament worship was focused on the animal's sacrifice of its blood.

The lesson of the sacrifice was:

Sin was imputed to the beast, its blood was shed, and its blood was sprinkled on the altar, on the ground, on the utensils, and on the mercy seat.

OT worship has been called, "slaughterhouse religion."

Consider the awfulness of the spectacle! It was not meant to be a pleasant sight because it was a picture of sin and the remedy for sin, viz. the shedding of blood.

Then what does an opened fountain mean?

To the dead sinner; nothing!

But if God would save a man or woman; boy or girl what must He do?
God must provide for Himself a sacrifice suitable to the desired objective.

And that is what the doctrine of SUBSTITUTION means!

The Substitutionary death of Christ is an objective fact which neither you nor I can have any part!

Blood was shed to teach Adam that the covering for sin was costly and that the work of his own hands would not do. Adam and Eve made aprons of fig leaves to hide their new-found shame.

Cain, the first murderer, learned that he couldn't hide the blood of righteous Abel.

How many millions of animals were sacrificed to teach us about substitution?

Finally “in the fullness of time,” a child was born without the blood of Adam in His veins.

We read about it in the Book of Hebrews:

Heb 9:11-14

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) **12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. **13** For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, **14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Heb 10:1-7

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. **2** Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? **3** But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year. **4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

The fountain is still open, do you need sufficient SUBSTITUTE?

Repent and believe in the Gospel!

Jim Gunn

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BLOOD

The red fluid circulating in the body that takes nourishment to the body parts and carries away waste. The word blood is often used literally in Scripture. Sometimes the word refers to the blood of animals <Gen. 37:31>; 2. other times it refers to human blood <1 Kin. 22:35>. The word is also used figuratively in the Bible. It may mean "blood red" <Joel 2:31> or "murder" <Matt. 27:24>. The phrase "flesh and blood" means humanity <Heb. 2:14>.

But the most important biblical concept in regard to blood is the spiritual significance of the blood of sacrificial animals. Although some scholars believe the blood primarily means the animal's life, most agree that blood refers to the animal's death. Most of the Old Testament passages that discuss sacrifices mention the death of the animal, not its life <Lev. 4:4-5>. The Bible makes it clear that the satisfaction or payment for human sins was made by the death of a specified animal substitute: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul" <Lev. 17:11>.

In the New Testament, this Old Testament idea of sacrifice is applied to Christ's blood. References to the "blood of Christ" always mean the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. References to the blood of Christ were made by Paul <Rom. 3:25>; Peter <1 Pet. 1:19>; John <Rev. 1:5> and the author of Hebrews <Heb. 9:14>. Although all have sinned, "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" <Eph. 1:7>.

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