

PRELIMS. A lot of people have great problems reading the Old Testament! They say it is **SO GORY!** Many people abandon the Bible as a guide/help/inspired on account of the **fightings, wars, bloodshed, injustices, unfairness!** And we Xns **cannot deny** it - the Bible **IS FULL** of such 'awful' things - and furthermore, it seems to **tolerate** and even **commend** the perpetrators of such awful deeds!! This sadly turns so many people away from Xnity and the Bible!

So **why** does the Bible have so much blood and injustices in its writings? Answer is because such recordings are **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** in order to get its **MAIN MESSAGE** over to us! In order for you/me to **grasp**, to really **fully understand** the **most important** principle, regarding the **most important** subject in all the world - which is the **forgiveness of our sins**, we need to **appreciate** what '**awful**' things needed to happen to innocent people!

God **permitted**, and God **tolerated** these injustices to take place so that **we** might **realise** the **cost** of salvation. Every time you and I see **blood** being spilled, or an **injustice** been done (and they are daily before us in the press and media), we ought immediately to **remember** what happened to Jesus Christ, **because** His life/death were the **greatest injustices** the world has ever seen, or will see!! For *without the **shedding of blood** there is **no forgiveness of sins!*** That is a reference to Jesus Christ dying unjustly, unfairly for **sins** He did not commit! For the sins of **evil people!**

The OT is **full of bloody sacrifices** deliberately - to **PREPARE** mankind for the **innocent blood of Christ** to be shed! See what our text says about the OT sacrifices *Indeed under the law (ie, the OT) **almost everything** is purified with **blood!*** And the next verse adds *it is was necessary* that the symbolical *things* used in the OT *be purified with these rites* and ordinances, but the **truly heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these** (ie Christ's life/death)

So all the **wrongs** you read of in the OT are **pointers/reminders** of what Jesus Christ was to **suffer** in order to **forgive** people their **sins!**

At the very, very beginning, God revealed His **saving** purposes to Adam and Eve in this way *the Lord God **made** for Adam and for his wife garments of **skins** and **clothed** them* [Gen 3:21] Skins, yes! **How** could you **possibly** get skins without **shedding blood**?

Note: (1) It meant that **innocent** animals had to **suffer** in order to **cover** Adam and Eve's nakedness - which most commentators believe it meant Adam and Eve were covered with Christ's righteous garments (2) God **made** the skins - salvation is **God's idea!** Then God **provided** the skins in some way He killed the animals!

But you see it was all a **symbol** of what was to come - Christ's suffering and death! *Christ also **suffered** once **for sins**, the righteous for the unrighteous* [1Pet 3:18] *He (God) made Him (Christ) to be sin who **knew no sin**, so that **in Him** we might become the righteousness of God* [2Co5:21] Peter, who knew Jesus well, said *He **committed no sin**, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did **not revile** in return; when He **suffered**, he did **not threaten*** [1P2] Jesus was sinless, it was so unjust that He should suffer! So, the innocent animals had to suffer their blood being shed to provide skins to cover Adam and Eve as a **symbol pointing** people to Christ's *sacrifice of Himself to **put away sin*** [26] So *without the **shedding of blood** there is **no forgiveness of sins*** [21]

Now all the OT ordinances, all the offerings and sprinkling of blood were symbols also - because, as we read in [vv8,9] *By this the Holy Spirit **indicates** that the way into the holy places **is not yet opened...** which is **symbolic** for that age!* So *it was **necessary*** that all the blood, suffering and injustices in the OT were seen to be **figures** pointing us to Jesus Christ who was to come and suffer for us.

*But all this seems **gruesome**, doesn't it? Well, it is **meant** to be - to communicate the **reality** of it! And we must remember, it **wasn't God** who **started** all this shedding of blood and killing! We did! Man did. In the beginning God never intended 'life in the Garden' to be like this - His **desire** was for man to **enjoy Him forever!** In fact God still has that **same desire** for us that we would find eternal happiness - **unloseable eternal inexpressible** life in Him!

Yes, **blood!** Seemingly blood is a very vital part of our constitution. We can tell so much from our blood! Blood samples are so necessary when we go to hospital. They give very important information!

Yes blood is gory and unpleasant - but there is very **Good News** about blood! This same Book, the Bible, tells us that **the life** is in the **blood!** That is why we must **not shed blood!** We must **not kill.** Noah was told as he stepped out into a new world *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image* [Gen9:6] There is something very **special** in blood!

Throughout the whole of Scripture, blood comes up again and again as something unique/different. Blood carries **death** - and it carries **life!** God is very, very interested in blood! The first mention of blood in the Bible is significant! The first time blood was shed in the Bible, was when Cain killed his brother. And God said this: *The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me* [G4:10] The **'voice'**? What does that mean? It means there is **accountability & responsibility!**

Blood is 'big' with God! And as we said, there is **Good News** about blood! The life is in the blood! Yes, **new life!** How come? Yes, you've guessed it - **blood was shed** - the precious blood of Christ! Because Jesus Christ **deliberately** shed His blood, we can have **life through His blood!** At the communion, we say *This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out* (shed) *for many* [Mar 14:24] Away back in the OT, this **concept** of new life in the blood was **foreseen:** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood...TO MAKE ATONEMENT for your SOULS, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life* [Lev 17:11] Isn't that wonderful? X's salvation is in the OT!

But what about the **innocents** - the animals that did not sin against God (not having souls or the law of God)? What about the many innocent people who have **suffered injustices** in this life - those who have been **injured** even been **killed accidentally**, or **in war**, or even **murdered?** How do we answer those who have suffered unjustly?

Well there is such a thing as **redemption!** Do you know what redemption does? Redemption brings **justice back!** Justice **-plus!!!**

You get **more** than you should in redemption! When Paul talked about the **sufferings of this life**, he said *I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed* [Rom 8:18] The reward in heaven was not worth comparing!! When he wrote to the Cors he actually called his **sufferings** (and they were very big!) *this light momentary affliction* [2Cor 4:17] Amazing! But then Paul had **eyesight** not many of us have. He saw the glories of heaven - which he could not describe!

And do you know what he said about his sufferings? He said they were engaged in a very important activity! They were *preparing for us an eternal weight* (do you know what that is, for I don't?) *of glory beyond all comparison* [2Cor4:17] That's the **second time** under inspiration Paul said his sufferings were **beyond comparison!**

Yes, redemption of the **creation** - and the redemption of the **body!** The whole **earth** is to be redeemed *the creation waits with eager longing...the creation itself will be set free from its bondage* [R8:21] And then he **added** *and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies* [Rom 8:23] All the **injustices** done to your body and soul will be **redeemed - plus!!**

That is **provided** you have a **BLOOD TRANSFUSION!** If you are here this morning, hearing about the blood of Christ being shed for sinners, if that **means nothing** to you - then be **assured** of this - you **need a blood transfusion!** For *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins!* Ie, without the shedding of **Christ's blood!** For *In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses* [Eph 1:7] John said: *the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin!* And he added *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unright-eousness* [1John 1:7,9] *Maybe this is the point - you have **no sins to confess!!** Awful!! But all are **welcome** to X's blood transfusion! *The next time you see **shed blood/injustices** remember God is **reminding** you of what happened to Jesus! The Greatest Injustice! And **WHY** did He suffer? To **save us from our sins!**