

THE BLOOD

12 "AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU; YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER." LUKE 2:12 KJV



Atonement - Sin - Salvation - The Cross - The Sign Unto You









SHELLEY GIESBRECHT

ALL GLORY TO GOD MY LORD AND SAVIOR

BACKGROUND OF THE AUTHOR

Shelley Giesbrecht is minister and founder of FaithGod'sWay - God's Children On Fire © a non-denominational reconciliation ministry dedicated to spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ and fostering spiritual growth.

Known as a "follower of Christ' Shelley is deeply committed to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20), emphasizing the importance of teaching, evangelizing, and encouraging believers to deepen their relationship with God.

Through Faith God's Way, Shelley focuses on talking about important elements of spiritual development, including faith, deliverance, Holy Spirit, baptism(s), and discipleship. Her ministry integrates personal testimony with scripture, often sharing profound personal spiritual encounters and miracles to inspire others. Shelley's approach reflects a balance of traditional Christ-centered teachings and today's world of innovative digital outreach to try and reach the global many.

The 'Vision and Mission' of FaithGod'sWay - God's Children On Fire ©

The Vision: For every human to be written into the book of life and not be blotted out because we were created for the purpose of relationship with God and not religion with God, which in turn He leads us to full understanding of our relationship including the heirship with and from God in Christ Jesus and Holy Spirit.

The Mission: Concisely integrates how the vision goal relates in accordance with Jesus' teachings. The mission is where we all learn more about the Good News, the commission and how another is indoctrinated into the family of God, fostering your more peaceful life with Father God, Jesus and Holy Spirit and understanding the importance of putting Jesus first and staying focused on the great commission while balancing your place in the body of Christ.

Learn more about the gospels, baptizing, deliverance, release of oppression and discipling to more spiritual maturity and to teach the obedience required of disciples who will be indoctrinated into the church and family of God through their belief and faith along with the Doctrine of Christ. Baptism(s), witnessing (Acts 1:8), preaching the gospel (Mark 16:15), and proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47) all intrigal to achieving the strength and peace God offers us reconciled with Him.

Shelley seeks to do the will of Him, plant spiritual seeds through evangelism and discipleship helping advance the Kingdom of God co-laboring to carry forward the message of His will in Jesus Christ our Lord and King and serve as effective disciples in our communities and beyond.

<u>The Gospels of Jesus</u> is something every disciple needs to strive towards proclaiming to others, sharing how they too can be written in the book of life and not focus on rumors of wars or things that will not matter to an unsaved person.

Psalm 29:11 NIV

"The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace."

FORWARD

THANK YOU FATHER GOD IN JESUS NAME THANK YOU LORD THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

I wish to thank you Father God in Jesus name I pray Lord God thank you for your divine hand and guidance with Holy Spirit in the creation of this presentation.

Thank you for bringing about valued hands and feet from the body of Christ to help with the input for this presentation. Acknowledgement for the collaboration and thank you goes to my brother in Christ David Tresham for his invaluable impartial advice and thoughts, correction and his mature experience with further revelation of scripture and reviewing of editing input.

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THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

ATONEMENT - SIN - SALVATION - THE CROSS

Luke 2:12 "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Many people have unanswered questions about sin, atonement, blood and the cross. This book does not disappoint in addressing this referencing key scripture to gain a deeper revelation of His truth to help you really draw closer to God as He brings us together to understand Him even more.

PART 1

Introducing Adam and Eve our first scriptured look at atonement, sin and blood

At creation - God Provides Life and Blood then Genesis 3:21 reveals God's first blood atonement for us.

- ❖ ADAM AND EVE Genesis 2:25 (Naked and Unashamed) "Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." In other words...created innocent. Their lack of shame reveals their innocence and indicates an absence of sin or moral corruption.
- Genesis 3:7 (Shamed and loss of innocence) After eating the forbidden fruit: "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves." This moment in time marks when they lost their innocence, knowing sin and feeling shame for the first time. Animal skin was given by God to Adam and Eve for atonement. Notice how their own attempt to cover themselves with sewed fig leaves was not good enough for God. This demonstrates the importance that they could not cover their own sins...instead, God gave them what He deemed acceptable for them, for his creation of humans, to use for the atonement of their human souls and clothed them in tunics of skin. This fact is just so importantly crucial to understand that God had to provide the right correction for their atonement and they were unable to atone for themselves as they had tried to do.
- Genesis 3:21 NKJV "21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them". Humans are subject to God's judgment. We are judged on many things including iniquity (a steward of unrighteousness) and disobedience which results in sin requiring judgement and atonement for same.
- (Key Concept) Revelation is in these words 'Lord God made' and 'tunics of skin' and 'clothed them'.

God created both humans and animals, all humans with blood and flesh. God created multiple animal types many species having the animal skin, blood and flesh as well.

- (Key Concept) All humans come short of the glory of God and all of us have iniquity and sin needing atonement as specified by God.
- 1. **Romans 5:12 (KJV)** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
- 2. Romans 3:23 (KJV) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
- 3. Psalms 51:5 (KJV) "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

RIGHT FROM GENESIS GOD CLEARLY SETS THE STAGE FOR ALL HISTORY

'ALL HUMANS REQUIRE DIVINE ATONEMENT'

A very overlooked observation at this point in the Old Testament, is that <u>God does not yet specify this covenant</u> <u>will include His 'remember no more'</u> part of atonement that comes later with Jesus in regards to our unrighteousness, iniquity and sins. He simply makes us aware of the need for atonement at this point; and that an animal skin was what He used.

Evidence of Animal Blood's Acceptance Before Christ

The Old Testament clearly shows that certain animal blood and specific preparation was deemed the only approved way by God for atonement of a humans' soul.

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 atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

Breaking down this extremely important verse:

- 1. "The life of the flesh is in the blood" Blood is the essence of life.
- 2. "I have given it to you" God provided blood for a specific purpose.
- 3. "Upon the altar" It is to be offered to God in a sacred manner.
- 4. "To make atonement" Blood serves as the means of reconciliation.
- 5. "For your souls" The atonement is meant for our human souls.
- 6. "For it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul" Only blood can fulfill this divine requirement.
- (Key Concept) From this, we understand that without the correct use and application of blood and the nature of blood specified by God Himself, atonement cannot occur. This cancels instantly any

misinformation out there today from other systems and traditional beliefs such as a Jew or Christian must die in order take another sinners place in Hell so that sinner can then go to Heaven - that is simply false that this could even happen because it is not in accordance with the God's law of the blood. So now, what exactly is atonement?

In the Old Testament, God described specific animals for sacrifices, offerings and particularly for atonement of the soul. Animals had to meet certain criteria. Most notably they had to be without blemish, symbolizing purity. Below is a summary of the animals deemed acceptable for various sacrificial purposes, as outlined primarily in the books of **Leviticus** and **Numbers** and this would last for 1 year at a time and then require a new sacrifice. This would remain until the fulfillment of His promise; where God steps his son into humanity in the arrival of the Messiah Jesus Christ on earth, who brought the complete and final covenant for atonement – the Good Newsin God's perfect timing for the world as a gift of grace that we each would want to accept.

A LOOK AT APPROVED ANIMALS FOR SACRIFICES

- 1. Cattle (Bulls and Cows)
 - Usage: Burnt offerings, sin offerings, peace offerings, and thanksgiving offerings.
 - Scriptural Reference:
 - "You may present a male without defect from the cattle..." Leviticus 1:3
 - "...a bull of the herd as a sin offering." Leviticus 4:3
- 2. Sheep (Lambs)
 - o **Usage**: Burnt offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings.
 - o Specific Notes: A male lamb was often required, such as during the Passover (Exodus 12:5).
 - Scriptural Reference:
 - "If his offering is from the flock, from the sheep or the goats, for a burnt offering, he shall bring a male without blemish." — Leviticus 1:10
- 3. **Goats**
 - Usage: Sin offerings and Day of Atonement sacrifices (as scapegoats).
 - Specific Notes: One goat would be sacrificed, and another would be released into the
 wilderness to carry away the sins of the people. Scriptural Reference: "He shall also take the
 two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting." Leviticus
 16:7-10
- 4. Doves or Pigeons
 - Usage: Offered by those who were poor and could not afford larger animals.
 - Scriptural Reference:
 - "If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering from the turtledoves or from the young pigeons." — Leviticus 1:14
 - "But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons..." Leviticus 5:11
- 5. **Rams**
 - Usage: Burnt offerings and guilt offerings.
 - Scriptural Reference:
 - "He shall offer a ram without blemish from the flock, according to your valuation, for a quilt offering to the priest." Leviticus 5:15

Criteria for Acceptable Animals

- **Without Blemish**: The animals had to be physically perfect, representing moral and spiritual purity (*Leviticus* 22:21).
- **Gender Specification**: For certain sacrifices, a male animal was required (*Leviticus 1:3*), while others could accept a female (*Leviticus 4:32*).
- Clean Animals: Only "clean" animals as defined in Leviticus 11 were permissible.

Symbolism of Blood in Sacrificial Animals

These sacrifices foreshadowed the ultimate atonement coming through Jesus Christ, often referred to as the <u>"Lamb of God"</u> (*John 1:29*). The use of pure and unblemished animals symbolized Christ's sinless nature and the sufficiency of His sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

In the New Testament we have scripture confirmation it will be 'His blood' – meaning the Blood of Jesus for reconciliation that we have redemption, forgiveness and 'remember no more' of sins in going forward.

Ephesians 1:7 NKJV "In Him we have <u>redemption through His blood</u>, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace".

LET US REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF INIQUITY

Iniquities seems to be just one of many of the important reasons for His promise for the Messiah, for Jesus His son to come. Particularly when we look at the scripture 'To fulfill all righteousness' when Jesus was baptizing with John. This phrase is just one crucial point in all of the work Jesus did for us, both in his ministry work and at the cross. He completed and readied so many things we don't even realize in the spiritual realm for us that we could never possibly do ourselves.

Psalms 51:5 ...'shapen in iniquity'... truly reveals our condition of being shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin. This should make complete sense to us because God is perfect and we are not. The words 'iniquity and sin' are important to be understood because they have **deeper revelation**. <u>Iniquity in the Vines Expository Dictionary explains as 'a state of unrighteousness'</u> and we know <u>Jesus spoke of how Himself and John were baptizing to fulfill all righteousness in Matthew 3:15 KJV "15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him."</u>

We can see a definite connection about iniquity and its meaning of unrighteousness here. Further we gain more clarity from Hebrews 10:17-18 KJV which says "¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will <u>I remember no more</u>. ¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." So we can now gain from just this alone deeper understanding of the Good News which includes a whopping promise from God that he will remember no more these things as well!

'GOD WILL REMEMBER NO MORE'

HEBREWS 10:17-18 INTRODUCES A NEW ADDED ASPECT OF ATONEMENT IN THAT GOD WILL REMEMBER NO MORE *A CHANGE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT*

The Concept of Atonement

In scripture, the word "atonement" refers to **divine reconciliation (vines dictionary indicates 'but reconciliation')** the corresponding NT word is 'hilasmos and hilasterion' Hebrews 9:5 'Mercy Seat', the covering of the ark of the covenant. These describe the means (in and through the work of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His death on the Cross by the shedding of His blood in His suffering sacrifice for our sin, the benefit of another) by which God shows mercy to us sinners.

Animal Blood Served As Proof Of Its Death

Humans tainted by sin and iniquities represent a life corrupted and destined for death. In contrast:

- Approved by God atonement the path back to God, reconciliation. Example as the animals listed in the Old Testament.
- The <u>shedding of an animal's blood in the OT served as proof of its death</u> (shedding of blood connects to Hebrews 9:22) fulfilling the requirement for atonement.

Through this process, God granted forgiveness to the sinner, based on their faith and adherence to His instructions.

What Was The act of the blood offering in the Old Testament?

Leviticus 3:1

^{3:1} "If his offering is a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offers an animal from the herd, male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. ² And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and kill it at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw the blood against the sides of the altar. ³ And from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as a food offering to the LORD, he shall offer the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, ⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins, and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys. ⁵ Then Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering, which is on the wood on the fire; it is a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁶ "If his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering to the LORD is an animal from the flock, male or female, <u>he shall offer it without blemish</u>. ⁷ If he offers a lamb for his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD, ⁸ lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it in front of the tent of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. ⁹ Then from the sacrifice of the peace offering he shall offer as a food offering to the LORD its fat; he shall remove the whole fat tail, cut off close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails ¹⁰ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys. ¹¹ And the priest shall burn it on the altar as a food offering to the LORD.

¹² "If his offering is a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD ¹³ and lay his hand on its head and kill it in front of the tent of meeting, and the sons of Aaron shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. ¹⁴ Then he shall offer from it, as his offering for a food offering to the LORD, the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails ¹⁵ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys. ¹⁶ And the priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering with a pleasing aroma. All fat is the LORD's. ¹⁷ It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places, that you eat neither fat nor blood."

The act of animal atonement served as a powerful reminder to the worshiper: the only way to return to the fullness of fellowship and communion with God was through the blood of a perfect, substitutionary sacrifice. Sin pollutes and corrupts, and the sin offering was instituted to cleanse away its defilement. In this offering, God commanded a specific and unusual use of the blood, underscoring its sacred purpose:

Leviticus 4:6-7

"The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle part of the blood seven times before the Lord in front of the veil of the sanctuary. And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before the Lord that is in the tent of meeting, and all the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting."

This ritual demonstrated dramatically that it was the **blood** that atoned for Israel's sin. The blood purified the tabernacle, the priests, the people, and even the land from the defilement caused by sin. Its pervasive application made an unavoidable statement about the nature of sin and the need for atonement. There was blood on the veil, blood on the horns of the altar, and blood poured out—all signifying the depth of sin's impact and God's provision for reconciliation.

Summary Of The Old Testament Guilt Offering

The guilt offering emphasized more than just the act of sacrifice; it required 3 main components. The guilty individual had to:

- 1. Confess the sin publicly. (Leviticus 5:5 KJV)
- 2. Offer a blood sacrifice. (Leviticus 17:11 KJV)
- 3. Make full <u>restitution</u> (...payment is the 'wages' of sin) of any defrauding, adding an additional twenty (20%) percent.

Confess the sin publicly - Leviticus 5:5 (KJV):

"And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that <u>he shall confess</u> that he hath sinned in that thing." Confession before offering a sacrifice was a prerequisite, ensuring that the individual recognized their wrongdoing and sought forgiveness genuinely.

Blood sacrifices were central to atonement, signifying that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23, KJV) and that life was required to cover sin:

Offer a blood sacrifice. - Leviticus 17:11 (KJV):

"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 an atonement for the soul."

When the sin involved defrauding or harming another, restitution was required as part of the atonement process, ensuring justice and restoration:

Make full restitution - Leviticus 6:4-5 (KJV):

"Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering."

This provision emphasized the importance of making amends for wrongdoing beyond the spiritual restoration provided through sacrifice. This offering highlighted that repentance was neither cheap nor easy. It came at a cost—both personal and material.

Yet, no animal sacrifice could, in itself, truly remove sin or pay its ultimate debt. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were expressions of faith, prefiguring the ultimate, superior sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Faith in the Superior Sacrifice. Remember that God chose to reveal Himself and bring us His law through the people of Israel. The rest of the world, all of us need to be thankful and grateful to the Lord for His chosen people of Israel who He chose to present and reveal Himself through. Through obeying these sacrifices the Israelites demonstrated their faith in God's promise of redemption. By trusting in His instructions and offering sacrifices as prescribed, they revealed their faith in that the Messiah would come - the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice promised to come in the future, that would truly atone for sin.

The Principle of Substitution

The sacrificial system in Leviticus taught the Israelites a foundational truth: God could be approached and reconciled back with Him to a person through the option of His worthy instruction. While these sacrifices might seem burdensome, they also brought relief and hope to the worshipper.

Imagine this experience as an Israelite!

- **The Cost** You would need to take the best animal from your herd, the one that would produce the best offspring, and offer it to God.
- **The Time Commitment** If you lived far from Jerusalem, you would have to journey to the temple, incurring travel expenses and time away from home.
- The Emotional and Spiritual Weight The act required self-examination, acknowledgment of sin, and the confession of those sins before the priest.

But then comes that moment of atonement. When the animal was sacrificed, its bloodshed, and the priest declared your sins forgiven, you would feel a profound sense of relief. Watching the innocent animal die in your place, you would think, "It should be me. I am the one who deserves to die. But this innocent animal has become my substitute. This animal has died so I can live."

THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT IN ALL WAYS THE NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLS THE OLD TESTAMENT IN ALL WAYS

PART 2

WEARING CHRIST

FULLFILLING THE OT PROPHECY

Genesis 3:21 KJV says, "²¹ Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

Hebrews 10:5-6 NKJV ... "but a body you have prepared for me, in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure"

Galatians 3:27 KJV says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ".

MAJOR TOPICS ON THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS - SOME ANSWERS

The Transition from the blood of the Old Covenant to the blood of the New Covenant

MAKING SENSE OF THE TRANSITION

- 1) Brief Recap of the Old Covenant for review
- 2) Confirmation Jesus chose of His own free will to die for us all and was not killed by His Father
- 3) How God stepped His Son into humanity
- 4) Jesus as the Lamb of God and final eternal savior of the world
- 5) Jesus covers iniquity payment owing and pays the wages in full of sin for us
- 6) Why a person in Christ knows we are saved by Grace through Faith
- 7) Wearing Christ now no need for sacrificed animal renewing year to year for atonement

1) Brief Recap of the Old Covenant for review

Under the Old Covenant, as described in the Old Testament, the shedding of animal blood was a central practice for atonement. The key verse in this regard is: "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." (Leviticus 17:11, NIV)

Leviticus highlights the intrinsic link between life and blood, establishing blood as the means of atonement and this being laid on the alter. Animal sacrifices, such as lambs or goats, were used temporarily one year at a time to atone and cover the sins of the people symbolizing the Promise in the future for a greater, eternal one time offering of the ultimate sacrifice – the promised Messiah.

God Brings the New Covenant and His Perfect Sacrifice. In the New Testament, the significance of <u>blood</u> is again reaffirming the Old Testament. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, fulfills the law and provides the ultimate atonement. Most of us initially have trouble understanding this assault on Jesus, and how could Jesus as a human willingly endure and offer Himself like this?

Recall in the Old Testament Leviticus 3:6-7 the specification for atonement "⁶ "If his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering to the LORD is an animal from the flock, male or female, he shall offer it without blemish. ⁷ If he offers a lamb for his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD,

It is made very clear that the new covenant and <u>perfect sacrifice had to be without blemish in keeping with God's will which meant and still means today that no sinful human could have; nor can ever atone for another <u>human's soul</u>. Jesus Christ was the only one – perfectly innocent, perfectly sinless and without flaw and we know, just as he knew, that without the shedding of his blood there would be no remission - no atonement and no Messiah! This was of the utmost urgency, this with love and obedience that engrained in Him to do the will of His Father.</u>

Hebrews 9:22 (KJV) "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and <u>without shedding of blood is no remission</u>." *God's law is spiritual and eternal, not earthly or political. Therefore, without the shedding of <u>blood without blemish</u> there can be no forgiveness, no remission.

2) Confirmation Jesus chose of His own free will to die for us all and was not killed by His Father

Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, not tainted by iniquity nor sin stepped into humanity from God Himself and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice. His death fulfilled God's ultimate plan for reconciliation. Through His grace, those who place their faith in Him are clothed in His righteousness and granted eternal life.

Jesus' death on the cross was necessary for the atonement of human sins and shows the connection to the Old Covenant practice of animal sacrifices, this becomes so very obvious. The ultimate sacrifice of sinless Jesus Christ, emphasizing His role as the perfect and final atonement to bring us His Good News so we may partake in His glorious grace through faith.

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan...Jesus' death was part of God's deliberate plan for redemption, as stated in the New Testament (Acts 2:23)

"This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." (Acts 2:23, NIV)

This demonstrates that Jesus' death, the crucifixion was not a random act of violence but a pivotal moment in God's redemptive plan, fulfilling prophecies and providing salvation and Jesus was in agreement with His Fathers plan giving those of us who grasp this the utmost respect and reverence for our Lord in what He did.

Voluntary Sacrifice: Not a Punishment. Knowing from scripture that Jesus' death was not a punishment imposed by God the Father, but rather a voluntary act of love is a central known point of Christians knowing just how much we are truly loved by Him. Several key verses illustrate this:

> (Key Concept) No one took Jesus' life from Him and he laid it down of His own accord verified in scripture.

- **John 10:17-18:** "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."
- **John 3:16:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

These verses confirm that Jesus willingly knowingly chose to lay his life down, in alignment with His Father's will. This was to fulfill the covenant to bring the gift of God's love to humanity.

3) How God stepped His Son into humanity

In the Bible, Jesus says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not have, but a body hast Thou prepared for Me" in Hebrews 10:5

Jesus knew his vessel, his body was prepared for Him for Glory, Mary also knew Jesus arrived from God Himself with no human involved in the creation of Jesus with her, no human man fathering Jesus.

Romans 9:23 (KJV) "God is like a potter who creates some vessels for destruction and others for glory."

God stepping into humanity in the flesh, the vessel of the person of Jesus Christ—was essential for fulfilling spiritual law. God could not simply declare humanity sin-free without compromising His justice and the integrity of His laws. The penalty for sin is death (wages have to be paid, if you are not in Jesus you owe a debt to God), and divine justice required a perfect and sinless sacrificial atonement for sin.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22, KJV)

By stepping into humanity in the body made for Him, Jesus entered into the human experience, allowing Him to be both the perfect High Priest and the sacrificial Lamb that man could not accomplish Himself.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15, KJV)

God's choice to make his Word into flesh so the Word in flesh could dwell among the rest of us humans is shown in scripture in John 1:14 (KJV) ... ¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Stepping into humanity also underscores His so incredibly deep love for humanity. By creating a human body to step the Word into the flesh of Jesus was able to fulfill the OT prophecy and will of his Father. In the final shedding of His blood, fulfilling the spiritual law of atonement and bridging the gap between a Holy God and sinful humanity. His human experience allowed Him to fully empathize with human suffering, making His sacrifice deeply personal and transformative and something that weighs heavy on every single one of us when he realizes He knows what we have gone through or are going through.

4) Jesus as the Lamb of God and final eternal Savior of the world

Jesus Becomes a Curse to Redeem Humanity. The New Testament explains that Jesus became a curse on behalf of humanity, fulfilling the law's requirement for sin and providing redemption:

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Galatians 3:13, KJV)

By being crucified, Jesus took upon Himself the curse that was due to humanity because of sin. Although He was sinless, He bore the consequences of sin to redeem humanity:

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21, KJV)

Jesus had the divine nature to take on the curse without becoming sinful Himself. His divine nature and perfect obedience ensured that <u>He could bear the penalty of sin without being tainted by it</u>. This is central to Christian salvation, as believers are united with Christ, sharing in His righteousness and redemption.

How God Remained God While Becoming Human. The mystery of the incarnation is that God became human in Jesus without ceasing to be God. Jesus is described in the New Testament as both fully God and fully man:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..." "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:1, 14, KJV)

God the Father did not stop being God when Jesus became flesh. Rather, His Son (The Word), who is also fully God, took on a human nature in becoming human flesh. This is explained through the doctrine of the Trinity: God exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are distinct yet fully unified. When Jesus, the Son, became... 'flesh dwelling among us' Father remained in heaven and did not have to leave heaven at any time as some people wonder; and the Spirit (Holy Spirit) continues His work ongoing, preserving the unity of the Godhead.

When Jesus' physical body ... 'that Father prepared for him' died on the cross, it was His human body (the Word that became flesh) that experienced death, not His divine nature – Jesus' divinity did not die. Jesus' divine nature remained eternal and untouched by death. This distinction is crucial for understanding our Christian belief knowing that God did not die but that Jesus, in His humanity, offered His life as a sacrifice for our sin, atonement for us. This is supported by Jesus' own words:

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25, KJV).

By Jesus rising from the dead ..."I lay down my life – only to take it up again"... Jesus demonstrated His divine power over death, affirming His deity and the completeness of His work of atonement.

John 10:17-18: "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again."

5) Jesus covers iniquity payment owing and pays the wages in full of sin for us

In the new and final Covenant, Jesus Christ ..."he has appeared once for all", fulfilled the sacrificial system of atonement in the Old Testament. His death and shedding of perfect without spot blood on the cross (the alter) is seen as the culmination and perfection of God's specified practice of atonement through divine approved atonement. The New Testament refers to Jesus as the "Lamb of God," clearly signifying His sacrificial role as the Messiah and final ultimate sacrifice:

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV)

Unlike the repeated animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant, Jesus' sacrifice was once and for all, providing solution for eternal salvation and atonement for sin. The apostle Paul, in the book of Hebrews, explains:

"<u>He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself</u>." (Hebrews 9:26, NIV)

Life in the Blood: The Connection. The Old Testament teaching that life resides in the blood forms that significant theological bridge to Jesus' sacrifice. As both fully human and fully divine, Jesus offered His life—symbolized by the shedding of His blood—to atone for humanity's sins:

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7, NIV)

This teaching underscores that Jesus' blood, representing His life, was and still is the only perfect and sufficient means for reconciliation with God going forward.

6) Why a person in Christ knows we are saved by Grace through Faith

God provided us His better way, His Promise, His Messiah to eternally reconcile us back to Himself. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23, NIV)

Humanity's sinfulness meant that no ordinary human could atone for sin. Jesus, being sinless and divine both, was the only one capable of bearing the penalty for all sin for all time. His death provided the means for humanity, for each of us who choose to be reconciled back with God, restoring the broken relationship caused by sin.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23, KJV)

7) Wearing Christ now - no need for sacrificed animal renewing year to year for atonement

Psalms 132:9 (KJV) "Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy."

Galatians 3:27 (KJV) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Becoming a Christian Through Jesus' Atonement. By grace through faith in Jesus', turning from sin/repentance and asking forgiveness normally in front of another as witness, when you accept Jesus with love in your heart and belief in Him...of being raised from the dead, having died for our sins and accepting His gift, this atonement sacrifice - a person becomes sealed with the Holy Spirit as a member in the body of Christ, a Christian - and is reconciled to God. This involves acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Savior, accepting His sacrifice as the atonement for sin, and receiving the gift of righteousness:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9, KJV)

This transforms the believer's life, freeing them from the curse of sin and granting eternal life.

Conclusion

In summary, Jesus' death on the cross represents the fulfillment of the Old Covenant sacrificial system, where His blood became the ultimate atonement for our sin. Unlike the temporary sacrifices of the Old Testament, Jesus' sacrifice was perfect, eternal, and once and for all who come to Him. His voluntary act of love, in unity with the Father, underscores the transformative power of His atonement, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to all who believe. By becoming a curse for humanity while remaining sinless, Jesus provides the means for eternal life and restores the relationship between the human and God.

EDUCATIONAL FACTS ABOUT BIRTH, NEWBORNS AND ISRAELS ORIGINAL MANGERS

Jesus' sinlessness is not just about his behavior or actions but also about the nature of his being. As God incarnate, Jesus did not carry the corruption of sin that all other humans inherit through Adam. His blood, therefore, is considered spiritually perfect, not tainted by sin, and capable of being the perfect sacrifice.

His <u>human nature meant he had a human body and that body produced human blood</u>, but <u>his divine nature meant he was sinless</u>, and his blood was therefore without blemish.

The fact that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary is key to the belief that he did not inherit original sin curse of Genesis 3:17 "Cursed is the ground because of you;" as Adam was formed from the ground and Jesus was not formed from the ground. Therefore, this is a factor in Jesus having sinless blood, making his sacrifice on the cross sufficient for the atonement of humanity's sins.

The blood of a baby does not directly come from either the mother or the father in the sense of inheriting blood from one parent. Here's a more detailed explanation. Genetic Contribution in general a baby's genetic material (which includes blood type) comes from both the mother and father. The baby inherits half of its chromosomes from the mother and half from the father. This determines many of the baby's traits, including the blood type (A, B, AB, or O, and Rh factor). Blood formation in the baby starts early in pregnancy, but initially, the baby's blood cells are produced by the yolk sac (in the early stages of pregnancy) and later by the liver and spleen. By the second trimester, the bone marrow becomes the primary site of blood production. The mother's blood supply is crucial to the baby's development during pregnancy. Through the placenta, the mother's blood circulates and provides the baby with oxygen and nutrients. However, the baby's blood remains distinct from the mother's; they do not share the same blood supply, even though nutrients and gases are exchanged via the placenta. The placenta acts as a filter and conduit for oxygen, nutrients, and waste products between the mother and the baby. While the baby's blood is separate from the mother's blood, they are closely linked through the placenta, allowing for the exchange of important substances. After birth, the baby's blood continues to be its own, and it is produced by the baby's bone marrow. However, at birth, the umbilical cord is cut, and the baby begins to rely entirely on its own circulatory system. In summary, the baby's blood is formed from the baby's own genetic material (inherited from both mother and father), but the formation of blood occurs through the baby's body, particularly the bone marrow. The mother's blood is involved in nourishing and supporting the baby through the placenta, but the baby's blood supply remains separate. The baby's blood type comes from a combination of the mother and father's genes.

The **placenta** allows for nutrient and gas exchange between the mother and baby, but **blood does not mix** between the two. Instead, nutrients, oxygen, and waste products are transferred across the placental barrier via diffusion, while the baby's blood remains in its own circulatory system.

Therefore, while Jesus' blood produced was biologically human, the nature of his blood was **sinlessness and perfection of his blood** would be considered a **spiritual reality** rather than a biological one.

This emphasizes that Jesus, while fully human, was also uniquely **divine**, and this divine nature kept his blood **free from the corruption of sin**.

WHEN IN CHRIST WE FACE THE BEMA SEAT FOR OUR JUDGEMENT

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The "Bema Seat" refers to the **judgment seat of Christ**, where believers will be rewarded for their deeds done in service to God. This concept comes from the Greek word " $b\bar{e}ma$ " ($\beta\tilde{\eta}\mu\alpha$), which means a platform or tribunal where judges sat to deliver verdicts or distribute rewards. In the New Testament, it is used metaphorically to describe the judgment of Christians by Jesus Christ, not for their salvation (which is secured through faith) but for their works.

Key Bible Verses:

1. **2 Corinthians 5:10** (KJV):

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

 This verse highlights the inevitability of every believer standing before Christ. The "good or bad" refers to the quality of works, not sin, since salvation is already secured (Romans 8:1).

2. Romans 14:10-12 (KJV):

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

o This passage emphasizes personal accountability before God at the Bema Seat.

3. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (KJV):

"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

o This verse provides a vivid picture of how a believer's works are evaluated. The focus is on reward, not punishment.

Theological Significance:

- Salvation is not judged at the Bema Seat: Salvation is based on faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). The Bema Seat judgment evaluates the works of believers to determine rewards.
- **Rewards for faithful service**: These rewards are often described metaphorically as crowns (e.g., the crown of life in James 1:12, the crown of righteousness in 2 Timothy 4:8).
- **Motivation for holy living**: Knowing that believers will give an account of their lives motivates them to live faithfully and serve wholeheartedly.

The Bema Seat serves as a reminder of God's justice and grace, rewarding believers for their faithful service while affirming their secure standing in Christ.

'SWADDLING CLOTHES ARE <u>STRIPS OF CLOTH</u>' LAMBS FOR SACRIFICE WERE WRAPPED IN CLOTH SET IN STONE MANGERS

Luke 2:12 "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in <u>swaddling clothes</u>, <u>lying in a manger</u>."



YES there is historical and cultural evidence that supports the idea that certain practices around lambing and sacrificial lambs in the vicinity of Jerusalem and Bethlehem might resonate with these themes.

1. Stone Mangers for Newborn Lambs:

In the region near Bethlehem, which included areas like Migdal Eder ("Tower of the Flock"), shepherds who raised sheep for temple sacrifices took great care of their flocks. These lambs had to be without blemish or defect to meet the standards for sacrifice according to Mosaic Law (Exodus 12:5, Leviticus 22:20-24). To ensure this, when ewes gave birth, it is believed that shepherds would wrap the newborn lambs in cloths to prevent them from injuring themselves and sometimes place them in stone mangers for protection. The use of stone mangers offered a clean and secure environment for the lambs to rest.

2. Bethlehem and Sacrificial Lambs:

Bethlehem, located just a few miles from Jerusalem, was indeed a center for raising sheep destined for temple sacrifices. The proximity to Jerusalem made it an ideal place for shepherds to care for flocks specifically bred for this purpose. These lambs were raised with the intent that they would be offered as sin offerings in the temple, fulfilling the requirements of Jewish law.

3. Symbolism of Jesus as the Lamb of God:

The imagery of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid in a manger is deeply significant. It aligns with the practices surrounding the care of sacrificial lambs and emphasizes Jesus' role as the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). The angelic announcement to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem further underscores this symbolism, as these shepherds were likely those responsible for tending the temple flocks.

These connections deepen the theological meaning of Jesus' birth narrative, showcasing how his arrival fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and sacrificial imagery central to Jewish worship.

THE NATURE OF BLOOD - JESUS FULLY HUMAN / FULLY GOD

Nature of Blood (Symbolic and Theological Meaning)

• The "nature of blood" refers to the underlying essence or characteristics of blood, particularly in theological, symbolic, or metaphysical contexts. This term focuses on the conceptual significance of blood, often tied to life, sacrifice, and purity.

In theological or symbolic terms, the **nature of blood** refers to:

- **Life and Vitality**: In the Bible, blood is often seen as a representation of life itself. Leviticus 17:11 states, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood," meaning blood is essential for life.
- Atonement and Sacrifice: Blood symbolizes sacrifice and atonement. In the Old Testament, specific
 animal sacrifices were made, and the blood was used to atone for sins (Leviticus 17:11). In Christianity,
 the blood of the Lamb Jesus fulfilled the first covenant and is now our means of reconciliation with God
 and receiving redemption and forgiveness.
- **Purity and Cleansing**: In Christianity **Jesus' blood** is covers us, purifying us, acceptable to God's standard to wash away the sins of believers, offering spiritual cleansing and reconciliation with God.

Key Differences:

- 1. **Blood (Physical)**: Refers to the actual biological substance circulating through the body.
 - It's a physical reality with measurable components (red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma, etc.).
 - o It has **scientific functions**, like oxygen transport and immune defense.
- 2. **Nature of Blood (Symbolic/Theological)**: Refers to the **conceptual significance** or **spiritual qualities** of blood, often related to themes of **life**, **sacrifice**, and **atonement**.
 - It is a symbol for deeper ideas, like life force, sacrifice for salvation, or the purification of sin.
 - o It carries **moral or theological implications**, especially in religious contexts.

In summary, **blood** is the physical substance in the body, while the **nature of blood** refers to its symbolic and theological meanings, which go beyond its biological role to represent life, sacrifice, and spiritual purification.