

Amazing Blood Prophecies!

Introduction

The **First Prophecy** recorded in the Bible is:

- *“But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die”* (Genesis 2:17 – NET).
- Something began to happen that day, perhaps that moment when they did eat of that tree. Some life-force began to wane.
- *“And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died”* (Genesis 5:5).

The prophecy was fulfilled.

- The cause of death: Disobedience.

The **Second Prophecy** in the Bible is:

- *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel”* (Genesis 3:15 – NIV).
- Representations in this prophecy:
 1. “enmity” – hatred
 2. “you” – Satan/serpent
 3. “woman” – first symbol of God’s true church (not Eve)
 4. “offspring” – all descendants of evil and good
 5. “head” – Satan’s reign/leadership crushed
 6. “heel” – part of foot – God’s people will be slowed – persecuted, not destroyed
- Within this prophecy it is understood that a Savior would come – a Redeemer who would:
 - a. Become a substitute to take the sinner’s death – called the “second death” (Revelation 20:14)
 - b. Bring Satan’s rule to an end

We are sure that those giant minds knew of a coming Messiah/Savior also through the story of Cain and Abel.

- Abel brought an animal to sacrifice before God. God sent fire down and consumed it.
- *“Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering”* (Genesis 4:4 – NET).
- *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh”* (Hebrews 11:4 – NET).

Blood became **symbolic of life**; when spilled or shed, it became **symbolic of death**. This becomes clearer when God visits Cain and says:

- *“What hast thou done? the voice of **thy brother’s blood** crieth unto me from the ground”* (Genesis 4:10 – NET).

The **Third Prophecy** in the Bible was through Enoch – the great-grandfather of Noah.

- It is not found in the Old Testament but attested to by Jude.
- *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh** with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him”* (Jude 14-15 – KJV).
- This refers to Christ’s Second Coming. Enoch was given amazing messages about the future. He was so close to God that he was translated to Heaven without seeing death (Genesis 5:24).

From the stories before the flood we discover several important truths:

1. Disobedience brings loss and death. God gives us the final choice.
2. A substitute death would come – some Savior would die in place of man.
3. Blood became symbolic of life or death.
4. There would be a second appearance of the Savior – who would bring sin and the battle to an end – His Second Coming.
5. God’s people would face a difficult time (persecution) because of Satan’s hatred.
6. Satan would finally be defeated and destroyed!

God Opens a New Era of Understanding

Abraham was called by God to leave that wicked pagan city, Ur, at the age of 75 (Genesis 12:1, 4) (~1950 B.C.).

- His faith was so stunning, given the environment of Ur! He had implicit trust in God.
- **“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, *not knowing* whither he went. **By faith** he sojourned in the land of promise, ... For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”** (Hebrews 11:8-9a, 10).
- That faithfulness God counted as righteousness (perfection) (Galatians 3:6). This means that he was given a prophecy of that eternal home (Revelation calls it the “New Jerusalem”).

This is amazing! Abraham was given an end-time prophecy of a better world to come (~1950 B.C.)!

- God shared with him many promises, including the assurance that the Savior would come through his posterity; all the world would be blessed because of him; the land of Canaan would be for him and his descendants.

Then God asked Abraham to do the unthinkable – shed the blood of (kill) his son, Isaac.

This added a new dimension to the meaning of redemption and salvation. Remember, Abraham did not have a Bible!

- God’s teaching suddenly becomes very personal. This act was symbolic of God the Father:
 - Giving His Son to the world. It was so painful – almost unthinkable.
 - Especially knowing He would die.
 - In turn, the Son accepted a cruel death – just like Isaac.
 - So His shed blood could bring life. He took the hit of ultimate justice – for us!

Did Abraham obey? Yes.

Did Isaac submit? Yes.

This is a metaphor, a living parable, through Abraham of what heaven went through to bring a Savior to us.

There’s something profound in this story:

- *“And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing*

*thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And **Abraham lifted up his eyes**, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son” (Genesis 22:11-13).*

- We are to **lift up our eyes** and see Jesus – the “Lamb of God” (John 1:36). Daniel did this and saw an amazing ram in 8:2c, 3a).

The Jewish Hebrew Factor

The night arrived for the mass exodus from Egypt. They had been there 400 plus years.

- That dark hour – at midnight – all the firstborn males of people and animals were to be killed.
- **Except** those of the Israelites and friends who joined them and **used the blood**.

What were the Israelites to do?

1. On the tenth day of Abib (the first month of the Jewish sacred year), each family chose a lamb (Exodus 12:1-3)
2. A first-born male animal without a flaw (12:3) – this represented Jesus.
 - a. Perfect
 - b. Firstborn of God (we later become His children through adoption)
3. At midnight they were to kill it (12:6) while being fully dressed and ready for their journey to Canaan.
4. The blood was drained from the lamb.
 - a. Hyssop was to be used – representing purification.
 - b. It was dipped in that blood and sprinkled on the lintel of the door and on the doorposts (12:7, 22).



Lintel – blood was to cleanse the mind

Doorposts – blood was to purify the heart and whole being

- c. Sandals were to be on their feet – fully ready to leave the “world” of bondage (12:11). (Egypt symbolized the sinful world.)

- d. They were to eat the lamb – representing the flesh of Jesus. He became part of them.
- e. It was to be eaten with bitter herbs – recalling the bitter bondage of Egypt, symbolizing the wicked world.

The next day as they marched (Exodus 12:15-17):

- They began seven days of eating unleavened bread
- Representing eating the bread of life – Jesus without sin
- That first day of marching was to be holy – a Sabbath (even though it wasn't the seventh day).

That feast was called Passover, symbolized by the angel of death passing over/by the homes that had blood sprinkled on the doorposts. (Exodus 12:13, 23).

- ***It was the blood*** that saved them.
- ***It was the blood*** that gave them permission to travel to the Promised Land.

God had told Noah that the life was in the blood. Nothing was to be eaten with blood in it (Genesis 9:4). This was repeated to Moses (Leviticus 17:10). Then God explained:

- *“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).
- What does that mean? This is vital Christian information!

Atonement means to make right, to set right, to reconcile, At-One-Ment

1. This is done through a substitute death
2. Through the shedding of blood.

The sacrifices performed up to the time of the Cross ***represented prophecy*** that there would someday be a Messiah who would die someday, somehow, like the Abraham and Isaac story on Mt. Moriah. His blood would open the way to remove sin and bring that reconciliation back to every person.

- The ancient Hebrew people celebrated that great possibility in all the complex sacrificial rituals that God had given them.
- But – there was something very important often overlooked!

Once each year in the Jewish month of Tishri (September–October), the tenth day, the *Day of Atonement* was celebrated (Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; Numbers 18; 29:7-11), honoring what was to come.

1. A special sacrifice was made for the High Priest and his family (Leviticus 16).
2. A special sacrifice was made for the congregation (Leviticus 16).
3. If a person failed to remedy all sin by that day, they were lost – “cut off” from God forever (Leviticus 23:29).
4. The blood was taken into the Most Holy where God’s glory rested above the ark.
5. It was sprinkled on the cover, called the Mercy Seat, and on the ground in front of the ark.
6. As the final step, the High Priest, representing Christ, came out and put his hands on the scapegoat and transferred the sins accumulated through the year to “Satan.”

Question:

If the sins were forgiven during the year through an animal sacrifice, why this Day of Atonement? Why more shedding of blood?

This *is* one of the great ***blood prophecies*** of the Old Testament!

- The blood sacrifices during the year brought ***forgiveness and removed them from the individual.***
- But – those sins ***remained on record*** in the blood within the sanctuary.
- It wasn’t until the Day of Atonement that the sins were removed from the Most Holy Place, where God’s presence was, and put onto Satan, the scapegoat.

That was when the sins of all the saints, God’s people, were placed on the scapegoat, representing Satan, who must bear the guilt.

This is a model, a picture, a prophecy, of how God will be dealing with sin. There is a “Final Day of Atonement” ahead when:

1. The record of sin will be removed from heaven – through Christ’s blood.
2. And those sins will be placed on Satan.
3. Diagram

This major prophecy unfolds in Daniel and Revelation.

1. We know that Satan panics (he's livid) when he realizes his time is short (Revelation 12:12).
2. There's more to this verse than meets the eye:
 - a. He is soon to receive the guilt of all the sins of the saved.
 - b. He is soon to go into the "wilderness" (planet earth) for one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-2).

Viewing Christ's Steps

Jesus had just given His last message to the Jewish leaders. He pronounced seven woes, or curses, on them. They were silenced.

- As He left the temple that day, it would be the last time His presence would ever be seen in a Jewish synagogue.
- Andrew and Phillip informed Jesus that a group of Greeks wanted to talk with Him (John 12:20+).

As the wise men came from the east at His birth, these men came from the west at His death.

Jesus honored their request.

- This became a great symbol of the Gentile harvest that would be gathered at the end of the world.
- While conversing with them, ***His mission of death*** came to Him with ***sudden emotional force***.

A cloud seemed to envelop Him. He became silent.

- The gloom was felt by everyone.
- He cried: *"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour"* (John 12:27).
- *"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified"* (John 12:23).

As a bolt of lightning streaks across the sky, God spoke to Him:

- *"Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it [My name], and will glorify it again"* (John 12:28).
- As if the arms of deity encircled Him, the people were amazed and terrified at this divine drama when the Father spoke to His beloved Son.

- God spoke to Jesus:
 - At His baptism – before His ministry began (Luke 3:22)
 - At His transfiguration – in the middle of His mission (Matthew 17:2)
 - And now at the end of His work

The saga continues as Christ utters a prophecy:

- *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out”* (John 12:31).
- ***This announced*** to the universe that the Cross, ***His blood***, will assure every created being that there will be a hope of salvation and an end to sin.
- That was a legal announcement.

Jesus would shortly share end-time prophecy with the disciples on the Mount of Olives – then eat a Passover meal with them and give His parting sermon.

Then the time came.

Gethsemane

He left the upper room with the disciples – except for Judas.

- The Passover moon shone full.
- It was Abib 14 (March–April – springtime).
- As they approached the Garden of Gethsemane, He was weighted with sorrow – *“tarry ye here and wait with me”* (Matthew 26:36-38, Luke 22:44).

Jesus now *begins to be numbered with the transgressors* (II Corinthians 5:21).

- Why?
- Because He must not only die the second death for man, but must bear their guilt.
- *“So Christ was once offered to **bear the sins** of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”* (Hebrews 9:28).
- There are many texts which show that His blood takes those sins.

As the sins of the world were placed on Him, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane, He began to feel the separation of the beams of the Father’s love.

- He must endure the wrath of God – He must become “sin” (II Corinthians 5:21)
- So He could suffer in your place and mine.
- *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath **laid on him** the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:6).

Christ sees the helplessness of man, the power of sin, the woes of the world, come up before Him.

- He decides: “I’ll do anything to save man” (Isaiah 53:11).
- ***“I accept the baptism of blood.”***

He suffered outside the gate (wall) (Hebrews 13:12) – just like the animal in the ancient tabernacle was sacrificed in the outer court:

- *“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).
- He became sin.
- He was a curse.
- He was subject to wrath – the justice of heaven.

What did His shed blood accomplish?

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, Satan became the prince of this world.
 - Man defied God by obeying Satan.
 - But when Jesus consistently honored God’s wishes and was about to pay man’s death penalty, Satan knew he was defeated.
 - *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out”* (John 12:31).
2. Jesus now took charge. Daniel calls Him Messiah the Prince (Daniel 9).

One man, Jesus Christ, did not obey Satan!

This meant that the end to sin could really be anticipated. 4000 years since the Garden – in promise. Now, 2000 years later – assurance.

Since God was on trial over His character and laws, how could this happen?

- God warned that in the day of disobedience, man would die (Genesis 2:17).
- His “life” would cease.
- But, in promise, He said that a substitute “person” would die for them (Genesis 3:15).
- Thus, their eternal death was reversed.

Only the Law Giver, Law Maker, man's Creator, could legally intervene or solve this. Two things would need to be done to make it happen:

1. Someone would need to die for sinners. That would be part of the "atonement." Meaning that "someone" would take the blood penalty for their sins. His life would be sacrificed.
2. Then all sin charges could be dropped. That is called expiation. Meaning? The record would become *clean*. There would be no further evidence of sin! They would be acquitted.

Atonement → Expiate (acquitted – charge dropped – justification)

Propitiation – redemption – buying us back

How does this begin?

1. Paul said that "*without the shedding of blood is no remission*" or expiation of sin (Hebrews 9:22).
2. We are redeemed by that precious blood of Christ – the Lamb (I Peter 1:18-19).
3. Jesus purchased us back (redeemed us):
"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:20).
 - By dying – shedding His life blood – He earned the right to take us back.
 - But He had to be charged with our sins and guilt! That blood can absorb all of the sins of the world.
 - *"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"* (II Corinthians 5:21).
4. The saints will appreciate so much what He did that they will sing:
*"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God **by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation"* (Revelation 5:9).

Because Jesus died for us, He has the right to:

1. Forgive our sins – He takes them away
2. Justify us – make us guilt free
3. Sanctify us – change us
4. Save us – give us eternal life
5. Invite us to live with Him – a friend and partner forever

All of this comes from the "power" in the blood He shed. This is all revealed in a myriad of Bible texts:

- “Washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Revelation 1:5).
- Justified us (Hebrews 5:9)
- Purged your consciences through His blood (Hebrews 9:14; cf. 9:22)
- Forgive our sins by His blood (Colossians 1:14)

But – there are conditions to actuate what he did:

- “If we walk in the light” (I John 1:7)
- “If we confess our sins” (I John 1:9)
- If we repent or turn away from sin (Acts 2:38, 3:19)

That means that we must risk obeying and have total trust and faith in Jesus:

- Faith in what He did in His life and death
- Faith in what He will do for us
- And – we must turn away from sin because we place our trust in His future!

Then He honors us – He gives us grace!

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Remember:

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” (Romans 2:13).

“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9).

Because Jesus shed His blood, He has the legal right to give us mercy – grace.

- He activates that love
- When we give Him permission!

Because Jesus shed His blood, He has the legal right to reject us – justice. But that occurs only if we reject Him.

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35--40)

