

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST – A BRIEF

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1. The *blood of Christ* is found in the New Testament four times. (1 Cor. 10:16; Eph. 2:13; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19). It is spoken of over forty times in various ways: *His own blood, the blood of Jesus, the blood of the eternal covenant, blood of the Lamb, etc.*
2. Our eternal redemption and therefore our salvation were secured by means of Jesus Christ's own blood when He bore the sins of the whole world once and for all time. *"And not by means of the blood of goats or young bulls [the day of Atonement sacrifices], but by means of His own blood, once for all time, He [Christ] has entered the Holy of Holies [the presence of the Father] having obtained eternal redemption."* (Heb. 9:12; cf. Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; 2:24; Titus 3:4-7; Rev. 1:5b)
3. When Christ ascended, He entered the original Holy of Holies, the very presence of God the Father in heaven. (Heb. 9:24)
4. Jesus Christ offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice and savior to pay for all the sins of mankind. (Heb. 1:3; 10:14; 12:2)
5. Having thus conquered sin, spiritual death, and physical death, He won the strategic victory over the devil [Satan], the evil ruler of this world. (1 Cor. 15:55-57; Heb. 2:14,15)
6. As a result of this victory, Jesus Christ was immediately seated at the right hand of His Father because His work of redemption had been completed. (Heb. 1:3, 13; 10:12; Psalm 110:1)
7. We know that His redemptive work was done because He said, ***"It is finished!"*** [meaning: it is finished in the past with results that continue forever] It is the verb form τετέλεσται, (tetelestai) the perfect form of the Greek verb - τελέω (teleo) - meaning: to finish, to complete, or to perfect. (John 19:30)
NOTE; Jesus did not need to do any additional work, such as taking any blood with Him into heaven.
8. He simply entered heaven in His resurrection body probably declaring a triumphant "Mission accomplished!"
9. The blood of Christ literally teaches the Lord's spiritual death as the fulfillment of the animal sacrifices. (Heb. 10:1-14)
10. *"The blood of Christ"* is a technical designation which describes the fact that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament ritual sacrifices. This phrase presents a representative analogy between something physical and something spiritual.

11. “The *blood of Christ*” brings together two unlike things: the literal blood of the animal sacrifice and the spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The animal’s physical blood being poured out represents what took place during Christ’s last three hours on the Cross of Calvary when the sins of the world were poured out on Him and judged by God the Father. (Isa. 53:6b, 10, 12; 1 Pet. 2:24)
12. In the Old Testament the blood was literal and the judgment was symbolic, but on the cross the blood was symbolic, but the judgement was literal. The blood of the animal sacrifice was “*a shadow of the good things to come,*” while the spiritual death of Jesus Christ is the reality that fulfills the shadows. (Heb. 9:11; 10:1)
13. In the *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* by Bauer, Arndt, and Gingrich the word, αἷμα (haima)- meaning: animal blood and human blood, has both a literal and a figurative meaning. They have an entire paragraph devoted to the figurative meaning. They describe it as “*the blood and life of an expiatory sacrifice, especially the blood of Christ as a means of expiation,*” Expiation is paying the penalty for sin. Jesus Christ did not bleed to death to pay the penalty for sin. (page 22)
14. In the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* by Gerhard Kittel, he states that “the blood of Christ in the New Testament is simply **a pregnant verbal symbol** [figurative] for the saving work of Christ.” He notes that “the language is metaphoric.” (Volume 1, page 175)
15. So, it is clear that spiritual death and not physical death is the penalty for sin. (Isa. 53:12)
16. The “*blood of Christ*” certainly does not refer to His physical death; in fact, He did not even bleed to death as the animal sacrifices did. The animal sacrifice had its throat slit and all of its blood was drained out; whereas, Christ’s corpse still had blood in His chest cavity when “*one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water (serum).*” (John 19:34)
17. Christ’s physical death simply indicated that His work on the cross was finished. However, His physical death was necessary to fulfill prophesy, to allow for the resurrection of His body, and to demonstrate three days later that the Father had accepted His payment for sin. (John 19:30b, Luke 23:46 with Psalm 31:5)
18. This same representative analogy is used when Christ spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood. (John 6:35, 47-58) Similarly, we see this figurative use with reference to the cup in the communion service. (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)