

The Meaning of the Atonement

PART TWO

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The greatest repentance we can do is to believe the statements of God's Word, which is the foundation of repentance--to be willing to believe the plain statements of God's Word. It is all right if we say—"I will not do that anymore," but it would not set us free from sin; but when we have settled it to BELIEVE God's statements concerning the Blood, we are FREE because that Blood has cut the cords which bind us to sin and the power of Satan; we are delivered from every sin. That is the best repentance we can do- to be willing to believe God's Word as it is written.

After God spoke to Saul of Tarsus, he said—*"Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?"* God only asked him to BELIEVE.

"Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." (Acts 9:6)

Ananias came and laid his hands on Saul's head, and his eyesight was restored, through the Blood of Jesus Christ, as well as his heart cleansed and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

It was the same in the case of Cornelius. (Acts 10th chapter). He sat there, with his family, listening to Peter's message. He did not coax or plead for his pardon and cleansing; he did not do any terrible weeping and agonizing. Peter presented to him the story of the Cross and of his sins, which caused Jesus Christ to hang there, telling him that if he believed the statement concerning the shedding of that Blood, he would be freed from every sin and receive full deliverance.

Cornelius did not say one word, neither was he doing anything but listening to Peter's message; and while Peter was speaking, he accepted the statements concerning that Blood. He did not even say: "God, have mercy upon me, I am a terrible man," which is all right, as far as it goes, but it will not answer for the merits of the Blood.

Beloved, the Blood was all God required; not the way he prayed, not what he said about the Blood, none of these things brought the pardon and cleansing. However, the very moment Cornelius believed that the Blood was shed to set him free and deliver him from the power of Satan; it was all that God required. As he accepted that Blood, he was instantly delivered, without any work of his own. So many of us think we must do something of ourselves in order to receive our full deliverance from sin. We take the place of Cain, instead of accepting what God has done. The Blood of Jesus Christ set us free and grants us pardon and cleansing, without merit on our part, without money, without any works of ours.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

God begins to work as soon as we believe the testimony concerning the Blood.

The Blood is also very important in reference to our health and protection. The very moment we accept the Blood to restore us to perfect health, the moment we accept that Atonement of Jesus Christ for the healing of our body, we are granted perfect health; but in no other way, no works of men of any kind are to be added. If we add the works of men, it puts us in the class with Cain.

The children of Israel had been in bondage in Egypt, subject to disease and oppression of every kind. They did not know God sufficiently to trust or depend on Him, because they had lost

sight of the Blood; they had no sacrifice anymore; they had forgotten-- Just as the Gentiles have today--what the Blood meant to them; what the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob really meant to them; they were living according to their own way, according to their own plans, and it is no wonder they got into trouble. In their bondage and oppression, they cried unto the Lord, in the last extremity, and that cry reached the ears of God; and He sent Moses to deliver His people out of the bondage of Egypt.

However, they were not delivered until they got under the blood of the little lamb. Let us consider, again, what happened to them the moment that blood got on the door of their dwellings; the moment they accepted God's testimony about that blood. God made two definite statements concerning that blood; one was that they were to be delivered out of Egypt; also, that they were to be perfectly protected, and those who were ill to be restored to perfect health. They were to be delivered from that bondage and delivered and protected from every disease and every evil thing.

Now the testimony of the Blood of Jesus Christ is just as emphatic, as it is written—*"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:4,5)

We are promised 100% peace, 100% health and protection; perfect strength in our body, perfect protection from the power of Satan. Now Satan likes to belittle anything which Jesus Christ has done for us! Praise God, our God is stronger than Satan! No matter how he tries to discount the work and value of Jesus Christ, it cannot diminish His power to work in our behalf. The very moment we accept the statements, concerning the Blood, at their face value, it is plainly stated in (Matthew 8:16-17), how this works out.

"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word and healed all that were sick. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Satan had to flee; everyone was healed; all diseases fled at His Word. This means that we are exempted, absolutely so, from the moment we accept God's statement concerning the Blood; it means perfect health and protection, and nothing short of it. That is the reason the Egyptians turned them out at once, after they got under the Blood. They went out with silver and gold, which means they had plenty of money; they realized that they had become sharers in that exhaustless wealth of God's. If we once grasp what the Blood means, we will have all the financial blessing and prosperity that we need.

We desire to take up, briefly, in the 11th and 12th chapters of Exodus, what God said about this Blood.

"And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maid-servant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts." (Exodus 11:4,5)

What a terrible disaster was coming upon these people; what a calamity was going to happen in the land of Egypt, a real, perilous, fatal disease; what we would call in the Middle Ages "black death."

"And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it anymore." (Verse 6)

That is the destruction which was to come. The Israelites were to kill a little lamb and sprinkle the blood on their houses, and this was to be the result— *"But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against*

man or beast: that ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." (Verse 7)

Now, beloved, you cannot tell me that it was a special invention of God, that it can never happen again; no one can say for a moment that if the blood of the little lamb brought such protection, that the Blood of Christ will do less. If we grasp what that Blood means, we will not allow Satan to rob us, as he did the children of Israel in Egypt; but instead, a dog will not be able to move his tongue against us, or anything that concerns us.

Now, the second thing, they were delivered from their bondage. *"And all these thy servants shall come down unto me and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger." (Verse 8)*

The Egyptians pushed them out after the blood was applied; they had no further trouble to be released from their bondage when the blood was on the door. They also received perfect health when the blood was on the door. How was this accomplished?

"Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house." (Exodus 12:3)

Beloved, a significant statement was being made here. *"Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year." (Verse 5)*

It was to be a type of Jesus Christ. This will give us an eye opener of how much greater and grander and glorious is our protection under the Blood of Christ.

"Ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood,

and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs shall they eat it.

"Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning, ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover." Verses 5-11

Notice that Word said the moment the blood got on the door they would be protected. God said— *"I am going to pass through Egypt tonight and the firstborn shall die, but when I see the blood it shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."*

That was the meaning of the first Passover. The Jews kept it as a memorial, but they do not keep it in a way to receive any benefit, only as a matter of form. The real power of that Passover was— *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."* It also states that they were to eat that Passover supper with their loins girded, their shoes on their feet, and their staff in their hand—like perfectly well people.



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