

Leviticus 17: Atonement By Blood.

1. (1-9) One place of offerings and sacrifices.

In the pagan world, altars were built on high hills, in forested areas, or at other special places and offerings were dedicated to Satanic or demonic spirits.

Yet now with a centralized place of worship, the Israelites were not allowed to offer sacrifice any way or place they pleased - they had to come to the Tabernacle and have their sacrifice administered by the priests. If they disobeyed, they would be expelled from their community.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 - *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.*

2. (10-12) The purpose of the blood.

Many pagan rituals celebrated the drinking of blood, and God also wanted a separation from these pagan practices. Blood, and life, belonged to God, and they were the means by which atonement was made - therefore, to eat blood was to profane it.

3. (13-14) No eating blood.

If an animal was killed in a hunt, the blood was to be poured out on the ground and covered with dust.

4. (15-17) - If one came upon an animal that had died naturally (or was something like modern road kill), one could eat it, because good meat shouldn't go to waste. But the person who ate was regarded as ceremonially unclean, needing washing.

If, under the Old Covenant, the blood of animals was to be respected, what of the precious blood of Jesus which makes a New Covenant?

Exodus 12:12-13 - *'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Matthew 26:26-28 - *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

Hebrews 9:11-14 - *But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

Hebrews 10:28-29 - *Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?***

Revelation 12:10-11 - *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.***

This is the last reference in the Bible to the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; here it is the overcoming blood, enabling believers to withstand the deceptions and accusations of Satan.

Hebrews 13:20 -21 - *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.***

"The blood of Christ is innocent, precious, cleansing."