

Hebrews 9:11 - 17
Dig, March 18, 2009

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness built by Moses became the first Sanctuary on earth. God came down to actually dwell here in the midst of His chosen people Israel. This momentous event was not even hinted at in His promises and covenant with Abraham, or any others before or after him, until Moses' song on the shore after the crossing of the Red Sea, Exodus 15:13. After a bumpy fourteen century history, including two replacements and a rebuild of this sanctuary, Christ came. He actually visited the temple and taught there, but never took up dwelling there. It was rightly His but He was not welcomed. He even drove out the money changers (twice). But there was no room for Him there.

He, being come, was a high priest of good things to come. He was not of the priesthood of Aaron, or of the earthly temple. This time He did not come down in a cloud to fill the earthly tabernacle as He had twice earlier, Exodus 40:34-35, 2Chronicles 5:13-14 (or as He will again, Ezekiel 43:1-5). He has come by, or through, a greater and fully complete tabernacle. A sanctuary not made with hands, not merely of this earthly creation, certainly not among those buildings then so revered by the Jews. He has entered the heavenly sanctuary. And, just as entering the earthly Holy Place required the blood of a sacrifice, He has entered the heavenly with blood. **His own blood!** The blood of bulls and calves was only a shadow or type of His blood shed for us. His blood was finally enough! He only had to bring it once, for all. With it He obtained ETERNAL redemption for US. The former sacrifices and the blood and ashes associated with them pale when compared with this. So we have,

- a new and better Priest, eternal in the heavens;
- a new and better priesthood;
- a new and better Mediator between God and Man;
- a new and better Covenant, unconditional and permanent;
- a new and better offering, once for all;
- of new and better blood, His own;
- a new standing, eternal redemption;
- a new and better sanctuary, in heaven;
- a new and better conscience, purged from dead works;
- a new and better service, serving the living God.

What can one say? This is overwhelming, awesome magnificent, incomprehensible! No wonder Paul was so inspired by the grace of God, that he devoted his whole life and being to proclaiming this gospel to the world. Though he was a Jew, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, and a Pharisee, he counted it all as refuse, dung compared to the One who had been revealed to him.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he

hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Note too the whole Godhead is involved in the redemption of sinners.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, [the SON] who through the eternal SPIRIT offered himself without spot to GOD, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

This isn't the only place the Three of the Godhead are named as together in scripture. Watch for more. And note how Each has a different role in Their unified acts.

The eternal Son of God became a man and lived a perfect righteous life on earth. But there was more to it than that. His life was always in perfect subjection to the Father. And He conducted His whole life through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. Although all men of every age could have that blessing, but few availed themselves of it. David was one who did, Psalm 51:11. In the present age the Holy Spirit indwells each believer, John 14:16-17, there available to guide us and to promote our communion with God, 2Corinthians 13:14. We can now walk as Jesus did, subject to the Father through the Holy Spirit every step of the way. So Jesus offering Himself through the Spirit to God was, in one sense, not extraordinary for He was simply walking in God's will through the indwelling Spirit. The same Spirit that had descended upon Him as He came up out of the water baptized by John drove Him into the wilderness to be tempted forty days.

Now that the redeeming blood has been offered, the New Covenant based upon it is considered. Christ is the Mediator of the New Testament (or Covenant). The words

“testament” and “covenant” speak of an agreement. The first covenant was the Law of Moses. As we have seen, the sins and trespasses of the people were not covered by the blood of the offerings they brought. They were not redeemed by any of the blood of animal offerings or the monetary gifts they brought. This fact is affirmed repeatedly in the New Testament. Watch for the verses.

1Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

The death of Christ on the cross has covered all of those sins and trespasses held in abeyance until He came. Paul clearly states that.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

An eternal inheritance now is ours. But in order to receive an inheritance, whether a fortune, property or a title, one must be named in the last will and testament and the one who made the will, the testator, must have died. For example, Prince Charles of England cannot become king until his mother, the Queen, dies. Sometimes impatient heirs even resort to murder in order to claim an inheritance. Others beg for their share while the parent is still alive. The story of the prodigal son is about that. Having squandered his fortune he returned to his Father seeking job

as a servant. He sought to turn to works rather than the grace enjoyed before leaving, Luke 15:19. Dead works. He had a bad conscience. We too. But the blood of Christ purged our consciences from dead works. Works we had to do for God to avoid judgement and earn His favor and acceptance. These were dead works, of no avail. With purged consciences we are free to voluntarily serve the living God in love, not law. This is what Christ's shed blood has granted. If we slog onward, persisting in dead works even after having been saved by faith in that shed blood, we insult it and Him who died for us. And we deprive ourselves of the blessings He has made ours for the taking. We are justified by faith before a righteous, holy God and enjoy a clean conscience regarding sins. What better could we dream of? Now, serve Him.

Why is shed blood part of a covenant? The first we read of this ancient custom is in Genesis 15:7-21, where God Himself institutes a sacrifice to serve as a witness of the covenant He was making with Abraham. The blood shed signifies each one making the covenant is staking his life on keeping his promise. God pledged the blood of His Own (Son) in saving us and setting us apart to Himself, with purged consciences.

What if we sin? We return and repent as David did in the virtue of that once shed blood. This part of the work of Christ is pictured in verse 13 in the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on the unclean, Numbers 19. We should repent as soon as becoming aware of a sin. The once-shed blood is the basis for restoration of an erring believer as well as redeeming him. Keep the list short.

By Ron Canner, March 18, 2009.