

The Scarlet Thread

When Joshua sent spies into Jericho, it was a prostitute named Rahab that welcomed them in. She also hid them to save their lives, and then let them down by a rope from the window of her house built on the city wall. Though she had lived an immoral life, and was among the people whom God was about to destroy, she found favor in the eyes of God, for she put her faith in the God of Israel. The spies told her to place a cord of scarlet thread in her window, which would ensure safety for her and all of her family who she could gather into her house.

When the wall of Jericho fell down, and Israel came in to destroy the city, Rahab and all her relatives were saved, and taken in as part of God's people. Even their belongings were saved, because of the scarlet thread.

That "scarlet thread" in her window brought her into a whole new life in God, and she became a mother in the royal bloodline! Rahab, the former prostitute and heathen became the mother of Boaz, who married Ruth. She ended up the great grandmother of King David, and in the direct lineage of Jesus! (see Ruth 4 and Matthew 1) What a grand epic of God's redeeming power!

There's a scarlet thread through the whole Bible...

It has been said that the entire Bible has a blood-red "scarlet thread" of redemption weaved through it. The weaving begins in Genesis, in the garden of Eden, with God himself shedding the blood of animals to clothe Adam and Eve in their sin. Fast forward to Revelation, and through John's eyes you will see a great multitude from every tribe, tongue and nation standing before God, those "who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb". This scarlet thread traces through the whole Bible. When you find this "bloodline" in the Bible, you will find the heart of God -- for the world, and for you.

After Adam and Eve were evicted from Eden, the bloodline can be seen in the life of Abel as he offered an acceptable blood sacrifice. This scarlet thread again shows up in Noah's blood sacrifice after the flood -- a "soothing aroma" to God. God's covenant with Abraham also required blood sacrifice, and the

Lord revealed His scarlet thread of redemption again in the substitution of a ram for Isaac who laid on the altar.

On the night of the Exodus from Egypt, this mysterious "bloodline" was unveiled even more in the Passover. The angel of death "passed over" every house that had the lamb's blood applied to the doorposts. In the middle of God's wrath, all in those houses were safe "under the blood".

Is it not amazing, when God's wrath caused the walls of Jericho to fall flat, that Rahab's house -- built into the wall -- was safe? One scarlet thread made the difference. All in her house were safe and all their belongings were safe. The scarlet thread tied in the window had the same effect in her house as the blood of the lamb on the doorposts during Passover night.

During Israel's journey through the wilderness to the promised land, the scarlet thread of Scripture became a literal river of atoning blood. Every day, at the entrance of the Tabernacle, countless sins were spoken over the heads of countless innocent animals who poured out their blood in prophecy of the coming Lamb of God. This daily prophetic bloodbath continued through centuries, and was in process in the temple right up to the night in which Jesus the Lamb of God was arrested -- Passover night itself!

On that night the Passover was fulfilled. The long anticipated sacrificial blood of the Lamb began to flow. First it came with incomprehensible spiritual and emotional agony in the garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus sweat drops of blood.

Within hours, he was in the cruel hands of Roman soldiers, blood streaming down his back. Thirty nine lashes from cords laced with metal and glass tore his back to shreds. Blood flowed from his head as the "crown" of two inch thorns was pressed into His skull. As he hung in agony on the cross, more blood poured out through His pierced hands and feet. Finally blood (and water) flowed out His side as the sword was driven into Him.

He cried loudly, "It is finished!", ...and then he died.

By the time of the resurrection, an unbreakable and unchangeable new covenant was in effect. That

covenant of blessing was sealed in blood so holy, so sacrificial, so redemptive, so divine, and so life-giving, that eternal and complete salvation was assured for all who believe.

The mystery of the scarlet thread was now a revelation of eternal redemption in the blood of Christ!

The rest of the Bible, beyond the sacrifice of the Lamb, contains the glorious unfolding of the significance of this blood redemption story, with its consequences for the world and its results in those who have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Many "Rahabs" have since found a new life by putting their faith in the scarlet thread of Christ's redemption. Heaps of corruption and gross stains of sin have been washed away by that blood. Strongholds have come down, and captives to Satan have been set free through the power of His blood.

And still it flows...

"There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins;

And sinner plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains!"

Is there a scarlet thread in your window? Is the blood applied to the doors of your household? Have you experienced the power of the blood of Jesus applied to everything in your life?

APPLY the blood of Christ...

God first told Noah, "Life is in the blood". The life of Christ is in His blood. In His blood we receive His very life. God commanded that the flesh of animals should not be eaten with the blood, -- for "it's life is in the blood". (Leviticus 17:11) The animal's blood, He said, was for atonement.

Jesus said we MUST eat His flesh AND DRINK HIS BLOOD -- otherwise we will have no life in us. (John 6:53-56) His eternal life is IN HIS BLOOD, and he said we must drink it to have that eternal life in us. His blood is spiritual, eternal life. It must be taken in. It must be applied to our heart, to our life, to have its supernatural effect.

We drink the blood of Christ by exercising faith in His blood. When we drink from the communion cup, it

is by faith we are drinking His blood. We can also drink in His blood in singing songs about the blood -- which by the way are some of the most powerful weapons of spiritual warfare. Do you want to change the atmosphere of your home, or your mind, or your church -- or your place of work? Start singing in faith about the blood of Jesus!

Again: the blood of the covenant must be applied if it is to have its effect. Rahab had to tie the scarlet cord in the window. The Israelites had to paint the blood on the doorpost. The blood had to be sprinkled before the mercy seat, and it had to be put on the priests in order for them to be consecrated to serve. Jesus said we must drink it. The overcomers in Revelation washed their robes in it. It must be applied.

The proper application of that blood establishes our forgiveness, our justification, our cleansing, our protection, our healing, our deliverance, and our sanctification.

The blood of Christ is to be actively believed in, aggressively proclaimed, clearly preached and taught, enthusiastically received, strongly meditated on, and continuously honored. We need to read about the blood, think about the blood, speak about the blood, sing of the blood, tell of the blood, write of the blood, and even shout and dance about the blood. Let the scarlet thread be weaved into your thinking and your believing, and let it be worn as spiritual armor. You need to wash yourself in the blood, and you need to drink by faith the blood of Christ. His blood is our hope, and the foundation for our faith. We overcome through the blood and by our testimony of the blood.

Applying the blood of Christ satisfies God's holiness, and infuriates the devil. Faith in the blood breaks family generational curses and releases blessings to that family. Honoring the blood welcomes the Holy Spirit, and forces out demons. Just mentioning the blood of Jesus can change the atmosphere in a room. The blood will clean up your church, and clean up your mind. His blood removes darkness in your soul, and it welcomes in the light. By application of the blood in true faith, bondages break, sickness heals, and deceptions vanish.

Many who have written on past revivals state that revival outpouring finally came when prayer became full of fervent pleading and proclamation of the blood of Jesus.

Perhaps today you need to apply that blood in a fresh way. Open up the Word, and find the promises again concerning the blood of Jesus. Go back to the beginning of the story, and trace that "bloodline", that scarlet thread, through your own Bible.

We read in Revelation that they overcame Satan because of the blood of the Lamb. The blood breaks the legal hold of Satan -- which is uncleansed sin. Therefore wherever he has been at work -- whether in our sinful bondages, or in strife in our church, or in the sickness of our body, or in financial bondage -- there apply by faith the blood of Jesus in repentant prayer and proclamation.

The blood of Jesus Christ cannot be overemphasized. Other parts of the Gospel are just as important. But... nothing is to be done without the blood! The strategy of Satan is to take the blood out of the gospel, to remove the scarlet thread from the preaching, to get us to ignore the blood, to make it a quiet issue. In so doing, He can overstep boundaries and come right on in, even into church! It is possible to have a bloodless form of Christianity, that is, one which loses the aggressive proclamation of the blood of Christ. The effectiveness of the blood can be reduced by ignorance and unbelief, when it is the most powerful substance in the universe -- not only for forgiveness, but for cleansing and sanctification and holiness. Only the applied blood can cleanse a conscience that is hardened or full of religious works. Only the blood can truly sanctify, for THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST IS IN THE BLOOD. His life is our source of holiness, and HIS LIFE IS IN HIS BLOOD.

Not without blood...!

Yes, we need the whole gospel and the whole Word of God. But...NOT WITHOUT BLOOD. If you remove the scarlet thread from the fabric of your thought about God, about yourself and your life with God, your life will unravel. If the bloodline of redemption does not remain as the foundation of your hope and faith for today, your confidence will wither.

Do you have chaos in your house? Start applying by faith the blood of Jesus to your house and family. Take communion together. Find the promises about the blood. Walk your property and pray and proclaim the blood of Jesus. Open up your Bible and read out loud the Passover story, and the story of the Cross. Immerse yourself in Hebrews until you start thinking according to the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, and see Him as the mediator of a new blood covenant.

Faith in His blood, coupled with the honoring of His name, is bondage breaking, sickness healing, darkness removing, crookedness straightening, poverty removing, holiness producing, miracle welcoming, heaven rejoicing power released for your life and for others.

It is time to become much more aggressive in our faith in His blood. It must be so, since we live in an increasing darkness.

You don't have to always shout. Even the soft mention of His name and honor to the blood can be effective, if it comes from bold and settled faith. But let the cleansing and delivering and healing power of the blood of Jesus Christ find its full release in your life. In the words of a song,

"...the blood that gives me strength from day to day has never lost its power."

"We appeal in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Father at His mercy seat in heaven on your behalf, where Jesus has entered in ahead of us with His own shed blood. We honor and plead that precious holy blood in faith and confidence before the Father on behalf of your life, and the life of your family.

We apply by faith in the name of Jesus the blood of Jesus over your spirit, your mind, your emotions, your body, your relationships, your home, your finances, your work, and your ministry in His Kingdom.. We declare the power of the blood to cleanse your confessed sin, to separate you from Satanic influence, to break every curse, and to release the blessings of the new covenant in your life."

What Happened on the Cross?

1. Jesus broke the power of sin and made us holy. 1 John 1:7
2. Jesus broke the power of sickness, and made us healthy. Isaiah 53:4
3. Jesus broke the power of Satan, and made us free. Hebrews 2:14
4. Jesus broke the power of the curse, and made us blessed and fruitful. Galatians 3:13-14
5. Jesus restored our fellowship with the Father. Hebrews 10:19-22

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