

# The Scarlet Thread

Redemption traced from Genesis to Revelation

## The Fall and the Promise

### **Genesis 3:15**

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

### **Genesis 3:21**

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

### **Romans 5:12**

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

### **1 Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Human history began with creation in innocence and the tragedy of the fall—yet God immediately promised redemption through the seed of the woman. When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover their nakedness with fig leaves; God provided coats of skin, requiring the death of an animal—the first blood sacrifice pointing to Christ.

God cursed the serpent: 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Here begins the scarlet thread—the promise of a coming Redeemer who would crush Satan's head while suffering in the process. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men.

In Adam all die; but in Christ shall all be made alive. The promise given in Eden sustained believers through millennia: a Deliverer would come, born of a woman, who would reverse the curse and restore what was lost.

Every subsequent covenant, sacrifice, and prophecy unfolds this initial promise until its fulfillment in Christ.

## Blood Before the Law

### **Genesis 4:4**

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

### **Genesis 8:20**

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

### **Genesis 22:13**

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

### **Hebrews 11:4**

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Before the Mosaic law, righteous people offered blood sacrifices, acknowledging that sin requires death and approaching God through substitutionary offerings. Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof, and the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering—by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

After the flood, Noah built an altar unto the LORD and offered burnt offerings; the LORD smelled a sweet savour. When Abraham was about to offer Isaac, the angel stayed his hand, and Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: Abraham offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

These sacrifices expressed faith in God's provision and pictured the coming Redeemer. The worshippers understood, however dimly, that they could not approach a holy God without blood—without a substitute dying in their place.

The scarlet thread runs through these pre-law sacrifices: sin demands death, God provides a substitute, the innocent dies for the guilty. This pattern, established from Eden onward, would be codified in the Mosaic law and ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

## The Passover

### **Exodus 12:13**

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

### **Exodus 12:23**

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

### **1 Corinthians 5:7**

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

[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:

The Passover in Egypt displays redemption through blood with stunning clarity—a lamb slain, blood applied, and judgment passing over those under its protection. 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you.' The LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Ye were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Every element pictures Christ: the lamb without blemish (Christ's sinlessness), killed at twilight (Christ dying at the ninth hour), its blood applied (appropriating Christ's sacrifice by faith), its flesh eaten (feeding on Christ), no bone broken (Christ's bones

unbroken on the cross), and Israel's deliverance from bondage (our redemption from sin's slavery). The Passover became Israel's central commemorative feast, celebrated annually for fifteen centuries, keeping alive the memory of redemption through blood until the true Lamb came.

At His final Passover, Jesus transformed the feast into the Lord's Supper, declaring 'This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.'

## The Levitical Sacrifices

### **Leviticus 17:11**

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

### **Hebrews 9:22**

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

### **Hebrews 10:1-4**

[1] For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [2] For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. [3] But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. [4] For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

### **Leviticus 16:21-22**

[21] And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: [22] And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

The entire Levitical system revolved around blood sacrifice—teaching that sin requires death and atonement comes only through substitutionary offerings. 'The life

of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.' Without shedding of blood is no remission.

The law had a shadow of good things to come; those sacrifices could never take away sins—they were object lessons pointing to the one sacrifice that could. On the Day of Atonement, Aaron laid both hands upon the head of the live goat and confessed over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, putting them upon the head of the goat—picturing sin's transfer to a substitute.

The blood of bulls and goats flowed daily, weekly, monthly, yearly—millions of animals over fifteen centuries. This staggering volume of blood taught one lesson: sin is serious, death is required, and human effort cannot atone.

The repetition taught another lesson: these sacrifices were insufficient—they pointed forward to something greater. The scarlet thread runs crimson through the tabernacle, the temple, and the altar until Christ declares, 'It is finished.'

## The Prophetic Promise

### **Isaiah 53:5-7**

[5] 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.

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. [7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

### **Zechariah 9:11**

As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

### **Daniel 9:26**

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the

sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

### **Zechariah 13:1**

In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

The prophets explicitly foretold a coming Redeemer whose blood would establish the new covenant and cleanse from sin. '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... he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter... he hath poured out his soul unto death.' Zechariah proclaimed, 'By the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.' Daniel predicted, 'Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself.' Zechariah foretold, 'In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.' These prophecies revealed what the sacrifices pictured: God Himself would provide the ultimate sacrifice.

The Servant of the LORD would bear our iniquities. The Messiah would be cut off for others' sins.

A fountain of cleansing would be opened. The scarlet thread runs through every prophet, converging on Calvary where the promises would be fulfilled in Christ's atoning death.

## **The Blood of Christ**

### **Hebrews 9:12**

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

### **1 John 1:7**

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

### **Revelation 1:5**

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

**Ephesians 1:7**

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

In Christ, all that the sacrifices pictured and the prophets promised finds fulfillment—His blood accomplishes eternal redemption. 'Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.' The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ's blood is superior to all that preceded it: it is human blood (He became flesh), yet divine blood (He is God's Son); it is sinless blood (He knew no sin), offered willingly (He laid down His life); it secures eternal redemption (one sacrifice forever), not merely annual covering. The scarlet thread that began in Eden, ran through patriarchal altars, pooled at Passover, flowed through the tabernacle and temple, and colored the prophetic visions, converges at Golgotha where God's Lamb bleeds and dies.

The veil is torn; access is opened; redemption is accomplished. Christ's blood answers every requirement of God's justice and provides complete salvation for all who trust in Him.

## The Lamb on the Throne

**Revelation 5:9-10**

[9] And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

**Revelation 7:14**

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Revelation 12:11**

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Revelation 19:13**

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

The book of Revelation consummates the scarlet thread, revealing the slain Lamb enthroned in glory, His blood-bought people worshipping forever. 'Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.' The great multitude before the throne have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The saints overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. Christ returns clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Heaven's worship centers on the Lamb who was slain—His death is eternally remembered, His blood eternally celebrated. The scarlet thread that began with promise in Eden ends with praise in the New Jerusalem.

From the first animal killed to clothe Adam and Eve to the Lamb standing as though slain in heaven's throne room, redemption through blood is Scripture's grand theme. Creation, fall, promise, sacrifice, fulfillment, consummation—every page is stained with the blood that cleanses from sin and purchases a people for God's eternal praise.