

A Testimony concerning the Blood of the Old Covenant, and the Blood of the New Covenant.

—By George Fox

Moses took the blood of the oxen and calves that were offered for sacrifices, burnt-offerings and peace-offerings, and sprinkled it upon the altar, and upon the people, and said to them, 'behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you:' so the life of the beasts and other creatures (which is blood), was the blood of the old covenant.

And after Moses had sprinkled the people, he sprinkled the tabernacle, and the vessels of the ministry, he sprinkled Aaron and his sons, and he sprinkled the books of the Old Testament; so the first testament and covenant were dedicated with the blood of beasts and other creatures, which was the life of beasts and other creatures; and almost all things were by the law of Moses, purged with blood, which was the life of beasts. And without shedding of blood there was no remission of sin. And, (as I said before), when Moses had sprinkled the books of the Old Testament, and the people with the blood, (which was the life of beasts), he said, 'this is the blood of the covenant and testament which God has made with you.' So the blood of the old covenant and the Old Testament, was the life of the clean beasts without blemish, (as I said before), for is not the blood, the life? And it is not possible that the blood, the life of bulls, goats, or other creatures in the old covenant could take away sin. But in the new covenant it is written, 'forasmuch as we are not redeemed with corruptible things, nor with silver, nor gold, from our vain conduct, or tradition of our forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or spot, which Lamb was foreordained before the foundation of the world,' and was manifested in the apostles' time and days, which he calls the last times. Silver and gold are corruptible things, which cannot redeem from corruption, nor the blood of bulls, goats, or other creatures, which will corrupt, but the blood of the Lamb, which was ordained before the foundation of the world, and manifested in the last times, in the new covenant; this precious blood of the Lamb, without spot or blemish, Christ Jesus, does not corrupt, for it redeems from the traditions of our forefathers, the Jews in the old covenant, and the corruptible blood of bulls, goats, and other creatures, that could not take away sin. And so, by the blood of the Lamb Christ Jesus, the saints are redeemed from their vain conduct and corruptible life, to a conduct in heaven, and incorruptible life.

And as Moses in the old covenant sprinkled the people with the blood, the life of beasts; so Christ our high priest sprinkles the hearts and consciences of his people in the new covenant with his blood, his life, 'from their dead works, that they may serve the living God in newness of life' and as the blood of the old covenant was the life of the beasts, so the blood of the everlasting covenant is the life of Christ the Lamb, ordained before the foundation of the world, who is the great shepherd of his sheep, through the blood of his everlasting covenant 'he makes his saints perfect in every good work to do his will, working in them what is well pleasing in his sight.'

So it is clear, the blood of the everlasting new covenant is the life of Christ Jesus. The blood of the old covenant was the life of the beasts; the bodies of those beasts in the old covenant were burnt outside of the Jews' camp; and the blood was brought into the sanctuary by the high priest, as an atonement for the sins of the priests and people. Therefore, Jesus also, that he might sanctify his people with his own blood, suffered outside the gates of Jerusalem... Let us go, therefore, to him, (namely, Christ), outside the Jews' camp, bearing Christ's reproach. Christ was reproached, and he sanctifies with his blood, his life, which dedicates the new covenant. So that all may come to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and his blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel, or of the blood of bulls and goats, the life of beasts. For Christ, being a high priest, and of a more perfect tabernacle than what was made with hands in the old covenant, did not enter into the holy place made with hands, by the blood of bulls, goats, and calves, as the priests of the old covenant did. But Christ, the Lamb of God, ordained before the foundation of the world, which was manifested in time, by his own blood, his life, entered once into the holy place, into heaven itself, (now to appear in the presence of God for us), having obtained eternal redemption for us. So it is the blood, the life of Christ in the new covenant, that cleanses from all sin, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, 'to purge our consciences from dead works, to serve the living God; for this reason he is the Mediator of the New Testament.

And so Christ was once offered for sin, who tasted death for every man; so he takes away the first covenant, that he may establish the second, and by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified; so it is by the blood of Christ, by which all his peoples' sins are washed away, who did and do confess, that Christ has redeemed them to God by his blood, and their garments were made white with the blood of the Lamb.

So the blood of the old covenant was the life of the beasts and other creatures; and the blood of the new covenant is the life of Christ Jesus, who said, 'except you eat my flesh, and drink my blood, you have no life in you.' John 6:53.

The blood of the new covenant is not according to the old. To have life, everyone must feel their hearts sprinkled with this blood of the new covenant. In this new covenant they shall all know the Lord, ... And by this blood of Jesus, his life in the new covenant, they are justified, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. Christ has purchased his church with his own blood, his life, and their faith stands in his blood, which is the life of the Lamb. Therefore, the apostle said, 'if you walk in the light, as he is in the light, then have you fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ Jesus, his Son, cleanses from all sin.'

So it is not the blood of bulls, goats, or the blood of other creatures, which was the blood of the old covenant, nor their outward washings in it, that takes away sin; but the blood of the new covenant, which is the blood of the Lamb without blemish, Christ Jesus, the blood of the Lamb, the life of the Lamb, with which Christ, the high priest sanctifies, cleanses and redeems. He washes with his own life, his blood; yes, he sprinkles the altar of the saints' hearts, that they may offer a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruits of our lips giving thanks to his name.

So you are bought and purchased with the blood of Christ, the life of Christ, who has died for you, and risen for your justification, that all might live to him, and not to themselves, and glorify him in body, soul and spirit, which are his, who has purchased you with his blood, his life. So worthy is the Lamb to receive glory and honor, who has redeemed us to God by his blood, and has washed us from our sins by his blood, and our garments are made white by the blood of the Lamb. So the saints overcome by the blood, the life of the Lamb, who was dead, and is alive again, and lives for evermore.

So the blood of the old covenant was the life of lambs and beasts without blemish, by which all things were cleansed and sprinkled; yes, the tabernacle and the vessels, priests and people with the blood, the life of the clean beasts without blemish, in the old covenant, and Old Testament. But the blood of the new covenant, and of the New Testament, his blood is the life of the Lamb, Christ Jesus, the Son of God without blemish, spot, sin, or guile; a Lamb prepared before the foundation of the world. So it is by the life, the blood of this spotless Lamb, that all his people are sanctified and redeemed to God, and sprinkled and washed, their hearts, consciences, tabernacles, vessels and altar in the tabernacle; and the fat or grossness consumed by his fire on the altar, by which they come to be a royal priesthood, offering up spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.

So the blood of the new and everlasting covenant is the life of Christ, which all the believers in the light are to walk in, and to be cleansed by, giving all honor and glory to God, and the Lamb, who has redeemed us to God by his blood.

George Fox

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And many lies and false reports have been cast upon us by both priests and professors, that we disregard, deny, and undervalue, the blood of Jesus, when we value and esteem the blood more than any of them. For how can they value or esteem the blood of Christ while pleading for sin for the term of life; which gives rise to the popish doctrine of purgatory when they are dead, and who are not washed, nor their garments made white, nor cleansed from all sin, and not redeemed to God by the blood of the Lamb from their vain conducts and the tradition of their forefathers. Neither do they have so much faith in the blood of Christ the Lamb, ordained before the foundation of the world, that the blood will wash them, cleanse them, and redeem them, or make them as clean as their father Adam and mother Eve were before they fell, much less believe they could come to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, who never fell.

And it may be seen, it was the life of the clean beasts from Abel's time, that was offered and accepted by God to cleanse with, and therefore, they were not to eat the blood, for the blood, the life of the beasts was offered to God for an atonement upon his altar. So it is clear it was the blood, the life of the beasts that God required to make atonement with upon his altar for their souls. For the Lord said, 'the life of all flesh is the blood,' and who ever ate it was to be cut off; for the life of all flesh, the blood, was to be offered upon his altar to make atonement for their soul, as the Lord required.

Thus the first covenant was dedicated with the blood, which was the life of all flesh; but the new and second covenant is dedicated with the blood, the life of Christ Jesus, which is the alone atonement to God, by which all his people are washed, sanctified, cleansed, and redeemed to God, so that their faith and testimony stands in the blood of the Lamb, the life of Christ Jesus, foreordained before the world was, a Lamb without blemish, guile, spot, or sin, which cleanses from all spots and sin, and washes and makes clean the garments. And Christ abolishes both the blood of beasts, and the altar, and all the traditions in the law, and their offerings and sacrifices before the law, by the offering up of himself once in the end of the world, a Lamb ordained before the foundation of the world. Therefore everyone's faith and testimony must stand in him and his blood. And who are the true witnesses of this, but only those who have drunk of the blood of Christ, and eaten of his flesh, which he gives for the life of the world; not those who only talk of it?

'In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God; the same was in the beginning with God; all things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made; and the word was made

flesh and dwelled among us, and we beheld his glory as of the glory of the only begotten of the Father.' And Christ said, 'I have glorified you on earth, I have finished your work which you gave me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.' John 17:4-5, 24. So Christ, a Lamb, without spot or blemish, who redeems us from our vain conducts and traditions of our forefathers, the Jews, 'who verily was ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times,' ... 1 Pet 1:18-20. 'Who has put an end to all the Jews' offerings and sacrifices,' as the apostle said; for in the end of the world he has appeared, (namely, Christ), to put away sin with the sacrifice of himself. For if the blood of bulls and goats, which is their life, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh in the old covenant, how much more shall the blood of Christ, his life, who has through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, 'purge your consciences from dead works, to serve the living God.' For this cause, he is the Mediator of the New Testament, which is dedicated with his blood, his life. 'So Jesus Christ was surely of a better testament than that of the Jews.' Heb 7:22. 'For he, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man,' Heb 2:9, and lights every man who comes into the world; and said, 'I am the light of the world, and he who follows me shall not abide in darkness, but shall have the light of life.' And the apostle told the Ephesians, that he was 'to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which since the beginning of the world has been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.' Eph 3. 'And he who has the Son of God, has life, and he that has not the Son of God, has not life.'

Here it is clear Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and ending, and over all in the glory that he had with the Father before the world began. Therefore, let your faith stand in Christ, and his blood, his life, by which you are washed, sanctified, purged, cleansed and redeemed to God, that God, through Christ your Mediator, may have the glory in all your hearts.

The blood of the clean beasts was the life of the beasts; with their blood, the high priest entered once a year into the holy place made with hands, to make an atonement for himself and the people of the Jews in the old covenant. But Christ, our high priest entered into heaven by his own blood, his own life, to make an atonement for us; he tasted death for every man, and was a propitiation for the sins of the whole world, who was dead, and is alive again, and lives for evermore. So he ever lives to make intercession for his people, and so his people have boldness to enter into the holiest, namely, into heaven, by the blood, the life of Jesus, by a new and living way, which is consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; glory to God forever, through Jesus the Savior, and Christ the anointed of God.

George Fox