

The Importance of Jesus Christ and His Shed Blood

CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Jesus is God in flesh

Timothy 3:16, *God was manifest in the flesh... preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.* John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....* Philippians 2:6, *Jesus Christ, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.* Jesus said in John 10:30, *I and my Father are one.* John 18:4-6, *Jesus therefore... said unto them, whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am, they went backward, and fell to the ground.* Also, Jesus received worship (which would have been blasphemy if He was not God).

B. Jesus existed in eternity past

(Mohammed, Buddha, Mary, Confucius did not). Micah 5:2 says, *Thou Bethlehem ...out of thee shall He (Jesus) come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (eternity past).*

C. Jesus created the universe

Col 1:15-16, *For by him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth... all things were created by him (Jesus), and for him...* John 1:3, *All things were made by him (Jesus); and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

D. Jesus is the only one to live a sinless life

Heb 4:15, *(Jesus) was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin...* (No other religious figures can claim that).

E. Jesus is the key to finding God

Jesus claimed to be the **only way** to heaven. He clearly stated in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Notice that Jesus didn't say he was a *good* way, or a *better* way, or even the *best* way. He said *I'm the way*, and added that you cannot come to God (or heaven) except through him! Now that would be perceived as *pretty narrow* in all-inclusive days, but that is what the Creator of the Universe said. Will people believe the broad-minded preacher, or God the Son? John the Baptist also added, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God (hell) abideth on him"* (John 3:36). Again, the Bible intimates that He's the only way to heaven.

The apostle Peter was apparently pretty narrow as well. He spoke of Jesus Christ and said, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12).

The apostle Paul adds, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (I Timothy 2:5). Apparently St. Paul didn’t think there were many different ways to heaven.

The apostle John stated, *“This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life (heaven), and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”* (I John 5:11-12). Apparently St. John didn’t feel that all roads led to heaven. There are a number of other Bible verses, but the conclusion is clear. According to Jesus Christ and his Word, he is the only way to heaven. If you claim to be a follower of Christ, do you believe that?

F. Jesus said He came to...

Open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (Acts 26:18). Apparently people are in spiritual darkness and need illumination. Luke 19:10, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* He did so by dying on the cross for us!

SO WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO SHED HIS BLOOD FOR OUR SINS?

A. God shed the first blood to cover Adam & Eve’s sin

Genesis 3:21, *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them* (most likely skins from lambs who had to shed blood and die.)

B. Cain’s bloodless sacrifice was rejected

Genesis 4:3-5, *Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock ... And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth...*

C. Noah made a blood offering after the flood

Genesis 8:20, *And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and ... offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

D. God taught Abraham (first Jew) to sacrifice lambs

Genesis 22:13, *And Abraham went and took the ram (male lamb), and offered him up for a burnt offering....* The sacrifices continued for hundreds of years... (Isaac, Jacob, etc).

E. God gave Moses the Passover

Exodus 12:5, *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep...and shall kill it in the evening.*

Illus: *1) male, 2) prime of life, 3) spotless, 4) innocent for the guilty, etc .. The Tabernacle became the Temple ...(Solomon slew thousands of lambs at the Temple dedication... Illus: The Temple Cistern).

F. OT Principle

God said in Leviticus 17:11, *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. (i.e.- forgives sins).*

G. Blood must be shed for forgiveness of sin

Hebrews 9:22, *All things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission,(i.e. - no forgiveness of sin).*

H. Finally, Jesus Christ shed his blood for our sins

John 1:29, *John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (*same 4 qualities as the lamb listed above).*

NT= 1 Corinthians 5:7, *For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. ...When Jesus died on the cross he said "It is Finished" and the veil in the temple tore in half...(no more blood sacrifices).*

Ephesians 1:7, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace ... nowhere does the Bible say that water (baptism) can wash sin away... forgiveness is always by blood!*

1 Peter 1:18-19, *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; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ...Colossians 1:14, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

Revelation 1:5, *Jesus Christ... him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

What are you trusting in to take you to heaven?