

*My Search for*

**ATONING**

**BLOOD**



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*During a mission to Israel held in San Francisco earlier this century by H.A. Ironside, the experience of an old Jew so appealed to him that he recorded it in the speaker's own words, merely changing the Hebrew/English dialect which characterised it. The report is given here in the hope that it will still have an impact on all who read it. There is a rising tendency to gloss over the importance of the blood in the sacrifice of Christ despite the many references to it in the New Testament. Perhaps this report of a Hebrew's search will awaken in many believers a desire to thank God that they are not redeemed with such corruptible things as silver and gold..., but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1: 18-19*

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It was a spring evening in San Francisco. A meeting of Jews and Gentiles had just been thrown open for discussion and an elderly Jewish gentleman had taken the floor. "This is Passover week among you, my Jewish brethren, and as I sat here I was thinking how you will be observing it. You will have to put away all leaven from your houses; you will eat the Matzoth and the roasted lamb; you will attend the synagogue and carry out the ritual and direction of the Talmud."

“But you forget, my brethren, that you have everything except that which Jehovah required first of all. He did **not** say, ‘When I see the leaven put away, or when I see you eat the “Matzoth” or the lamb or go to the synagogue.’ His Word was, ‘When I see the **blood** I will pass over you.’ Ah, my brethren, you cannot substitute anything for this. You must have blood, Blood, BLOOD!”

The old man’s black eyes flashed and his Jewish brethren quailed before him.

After a moment’s pause, he went on: “I was born in Palestine, nearly 70 years ago. As a child I was taught to read the law, the Psalms and the prophets. I attended the synagogue and learned Hebrew from the rabbis. I believed what I was told, that ours was the true and only religion.

“But as I grew older and studied the law more intently, I was struck by the place the blood had in all the ceremonies outlined there and equally struck by its utter absence in the ritual in which I was brought up. Again and again I read Exodus 12 and Leviticus 16 and 17 and the latter chapters, especially, made me tremble, as I thought of the great day of atonement and the place the blood had there. Day and night one verse would ring in my ears: ‘It is the **blood** that maketh an atonement for the soul.’ I knew I had broken the law. I *needed atonement*. Year after year, on that day, I beat my breast as I confessed my need of it, but it was to be made by blood and there **WAS NO BLOOD!**”

“In my distress I at last opened my heart to a learned and venerable rabbi. He told me that God was angry with His people. Jerusalem was in the hands of the Gentiles, the temple was destroyed and a Mohammedan mosque was reared up in its place. The only spot on this earth where we dare shed the blood of sacrifice, in accordance with Deuteronomy 12 and Leviticus 17,

was desecrated and our nation scattered. That was *why* there was no blood. God had Himself closed the way to carry out the solemn service of the great day of atonement. Now we must turn to the Talmud and rest on its instructions and trust in the mercy of God and the merits of the fathers.

“I tried to be satisfied but could not. Something seemed to say that the law was unaltered, even though our temple was destroyed. Nothing else but the blood could atone for the soul. We dare not shed blood for atonement elsewhere than in the place the Lord had chosen. Then we were left without an atonement at all! The thought filled me with horror. In my distress I consulted many other rabbis. I had but one great question, ‘*Where can I find the blood of atonement?*’

“I was over 30 years of age when I left Palestine and came to Constantinople with my still unanswered question ever before my mind and my soul exceedingly troubled about my sins.

“One night I was walking down one of the narrow streets of that city, when I saw a sign telling of a meeting for Jews. Curiosity led me to open the door and go in. Just as I took a seat I heard a man say: ‘*The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*’ That was my introduction to Christianity.

“I listened breathlessly as the speaker told how God has declared that ‘Without shedding of blood there is no remission,’ but that He has given His only begotten Son, the Lamb of God, to die and all who trust in His blood are forgiven all their iniquities. This, I saw, was the Messiah of Isaiah 53; this was the Sufferer of Psalm 22.

“Ah, my brethren, I had found the blood of atonement at last. I trusted it and now I love to read the New Testament and see how all the shadows of the law are fulfilled in Jesus. His blood has been shed for sinners. It has satisfied God and it is the only means of salvation for either Jew or Gentile.”



Friend, HAVE YOU FOUND THE BLOOD OF ATONEMENT?  
Are you trusting in God's smitten Lamb? "Behold the Lamb of God, which  
taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29

**GOD SAYS:**

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you." *Exodus 12:13*

"It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." *Leviticus 17:11*

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." *1 John 1:7*

"We have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

*Colossians 1:14*

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