

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

JESUS SAID, “You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me” (John 5:39).

Jesus often proclaimed, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” He also said, “Take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him” (Luke 8:18). Jesus told religious people, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind” (John 9:39). The Jewish scriptures contain a mysterious “Scarlet Thread” that supernaturally connects Old Testament stories together. These stories reveal the reason Jesus came to earth. The question is, “Do YOU have ears to hear and eyes to see?”

SCARLET THREAD #2 THE BLOOD OF ATONEMENT LEADS TO JESUS

A “Scarlet Thread” of “Blood Atonement” began in the Garden of Eden. Following Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the eating of the forbidden fruit, they immediately felt shame. In a feeble attempt to hide their sin, they tried to cover their shame with fig leaves, but fig leaves could never atone [atone means to cover] their sin. When God came to them, they tried unsuccessfully to hide from Him. In the end, their sin was exposed and severe judgements followed. Then God did something very significant. He replaced the fig leaves with animal skins. The slaughtering of these animals was the very first blood sacrifice for the atonement of Adam and Eve’s sin. God himself initiated a plan that would ultimately atone for the sins of the world. (See: Genesis 3:7-21)

The story of Adam and Eve’s first sons, Cain and Abel, brings clarity to God’s plan. The Bible says, “Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And Yahweh respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering” (Genesis 4:1-5). In this story, Cain presented an offering of vegetables and Abel offered sacrificed lambs. Abel

followed the pattern set by God and Cain did not. God accepted Abel’s offering and rejected Cain’s, which made Cain so angry that he murdered his brother. The lesson for us is that **WE MUST DO THINGS GOD’S WAY!** The Bible says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12). God’s remedy for sin was blood atonement.

The next blood link leads to Abraham. The Scarlet Thread comes into clear view in Genesis chapter 22 when God asked Abraham to offer his special son Isaac as a blood sacrifice on the mountains of Moriah. God, however, stopped Abraham from killing Isaac and provided a lamb to be sacrificed in Isaac’s place. This lamb pictures Jesus, “The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).



At the Samaritan Passover in Israel this lamb was bound and waiting to be sacrificed.

Next, the thread of blood leads to Moses and the Israelites as God delivered them from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. The Passover (Exodus 12) is the event that ultimately set Israel free. The intimate connections between the Passover Lamb and Jesus are undeniable, “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

At Mount Sinai, God Himself came to earth veiled in a thick cloud. Yahweh instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle in which His presence would dwell. Daily blood sacrifices were required so that a holy God could dwell in the presence of sinful people. The Tabernacle, later replaced by Solomon’s temple, was the place of blood atonement. By the blood of slain animals sins were covered/atoned and Israel was forgiven. Every blood sacrifice offered at the Jewish Tabernacle/Temple testified of Jesus.



At the Samaritan Passover, this Aaronic Priest has the blood of a sacrificed lamb on his hands and forehead, signifying that his sins have been atoned/covered.



Millions of lambs were sacrificed on the altar at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

When Jesus finally came, speaking of Himself, He said, “I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple” (Matthew 12:6). How is Jesus, greater than the Temple? The Scarlet Thread of Blood Atonement ultimately leads us to the cross where Jesus was the final sacrifice. The Bible says, “It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself. . . having made peace through the blood of His cross” (Colossians 1:19-20).

In months to come, we will unpack some of these stories so you can see for yourself the supernatural connection each event has with Jesus. These stories do indeed, “Testify of Jesus.”

[Note: all the photos were taken by Chip in 2016]