

Leviticus 17
Why Such Reverence for Blood?
July 7, 2013
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon

Matthew 16:24–25 (HCSB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, *take up his cross*, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his *life* will lose it, but whoever loses his *life* because of Me will find it.

Key Idea

The wise man gives up the life he cannot keep in order to gain the life he cannot lose.

B. Big Picture (See Bulletin Back Panel)

C. Today's Questions:

1. Why did God want Israel to have such a reverence for blood?
2. How does this reverence for blood prepare Israel/us for Jesus?
3. How do we/should we respond to our mortality?

II. Why Such Reverence for Blood?

A. From the Beginning

“All flesh was created by God from the ground and the act of draining the blood out onto the ground and covering it symbolized the return of that life to God who first gave it (Gen. 3:19). The blood of murder victims was considered to be uncovered and cried out to God for vengeance (Gen. 4:10).”¹

¹ **Eveson, P. H.** (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (227). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

Genesis 9:3–5

³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But ***you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.*** ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

B. Sinai Covenant (Leviticus 17)

1. Exclusive Worship

Leviticus 17:7

So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.

Leviticus 17:3–4 (Cf. Cut off – Leviticus 20:4–5)

³ If any one ... does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it as a gift to the Lord in front of the tabernacle of the Lord, **bloodguilt** shall be imputed to that man. **He has shed blood**, and that man shall be ***cut off*** from among his people.

Leviticus 17:6

And the priest shall ***throw the blood*** on the altar of the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting and ***burn the fat*** for a **pleasing aroma** to the Lord.

3. Reverence for blood

a. The life is in the blood

b. God has given it for our atonement

Leviticus 17:11, 14b

For ***the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls.*** for it is the blood that makes atonement by the ***life***.

... Whoever eats it shall be ***cut off***.

III. The Gift of Blood/Life

A. Drinking Jesus' Blood!

John 6:53–58

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and **drink his blood**, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and **drinks my blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and **my blood is true drink**. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and **drinks my blood** abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

John 6:61–63

⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ ***It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.***

B. Application

1. A holy sign

“In Corinth the people turned the Lord’s Supper into a common feast. They lost the meaning of the ritual and had little regard for what the wine and bread represented—the body and blood of the Lamb of God. For this cause, some of them died prematurely—they were “cut off” (1 Cor. 11:29–30).” ²

2. Separation & Love

² Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (337). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Acts 15:19–21 (Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:19–22)

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

3. Where is true life found?

Hebrews 10:26–31

²⁶ For if we *go on sinning deliberately* after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ... ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has *trampled underfoot the Son of God*, and has *profaned the blood of the covenant* by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Key Idea

The wise man gives up the life he cannot keep in order to gain the life he cannot lose.

The foolish man loves this life enough to trample underfoot the Son of God, despising the life he poured out for us.

Matthew 16:25–26

²⁵ For whoever would save his *life* will lose it, but whoever loses his *life* for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his *soul*? Or what shall a man give in return for his *soul*?