

Blood and Water

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Have you ever noticed how many times blood and water are mentioned together in the Scriptures? Here are a few examples:

- Blood and water were present in the first two parts of the tabernacle used before entering the holy place—the **altar of offering** and **the laver**. These represented the blood of Christ and New Testament baptism being required to enter Christ’s church for salvation (Ex. 29:10ff; 30:17-20; Acts 2:36-38, 41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23-26).
- “...Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke: And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall **slay her before his face: And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood** with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times...And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for **a water of separation: it is a purification for sin**” (Num. 19:1-4, 9; cf. 19:13, 17, 20; Heb. 9:13-14).
- “And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running **water**: And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the living bird, and **dip them in the blood** of the slain bird, and in the running **water**, and sprinkle the house seven times: And he shall cleanse the house with the **blood** of the bird, and with the running **water**...” (Lev. 14:50-52; cf. 14:4-8; 16:14; Num. 19).
- “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took **the blood** of calves and of goats, **with water**, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people...which are the figures of the true...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts **sprinkled** from an evil conscience, and **our bodies washed with pure water**” (Heb. 9:19, 24; 10:22; cf. Ex. 24:7-8; Lev. 14:50-52; Heb. 9:13-28, 10:19).
- “...he was dead already...But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood** and **water**” (John 19:34).
- “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death**?” (Rom. 6:3; cf. John 19:34).
- “He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Make straight the**

way of the Lord...I baptize with water...Behold the Lamb of God...therefore am I come baptizing with water” (John 1:23, 26, 29, 31).

- “This is he that came by **water** and **blood**, even Jesus Christ; not by **water** only, but by **water** and **blood**. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth” (1 John 5:6).
- “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the **water**, and the **blood**: and these three agree in one” (1 John 5:8).
- “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and **gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water** by the word” (Eph. 5:25-26; cf. Acts 20:28).

More examples could be listed here, but why are blood and water found together so often in God’s Word? Perhaps it is because God determined to combine them for a special purpose.

Please notice that God said **blood** and **water** accomplish the same **spiritual purposes**:

BLOOD	WATER	PURPOSE
<p>“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate” (Heb. 13:12).</p>	<p>“...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:25-26).</p>	<p>Sanctification</p>
<p>“...These are they which...have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:14).</p>	<p>“...gave Himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:25-26)</p>	<p>Spiritual Cleansing</p>
<p>“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28).</p>	<p>“...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38).</p>	<p>For the Remission (Forgiveness) of Sins</p>
<p>“...Jesus Christ...washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).</p>	<p>“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).</p>	<p>Washes Away Sins</p>

<p>"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Rom. 5:9).</p>	<p>"...eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Pet. 3:20-21).</p>	<p>Saves Us</p>
<p>"How much more shall the blood of Christ...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:14; cf. 10:22).</p>	<p>"...baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God (literally, an appeal to God for a good conscience, JPH) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21; cf. Acts 8:39; 1 John 2:3).</p>	<p>Rightfully Gives a Clear Conscience</p>

Please apply this simple logical equation to the previously mentioned chart:

$$A = C$$

$$B = C$$

$$\text{Therefore, } A = B$$

A equals the **blood of Christ**, **B** equals **water baptism**, and **C** equals **the spiritual purpose**. Therefore, it can be rightfully said that one initially contacts **the blood of Christ** when he is "**baptized into His death**"! (Rom. 6:3). It can also be stated more explicitly:

- If a person becomes sanctified when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Hebrews 13:12), and a person becomes sanctified when he is "**washed in water**" (Ephesians 5:26), then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**
- If a person becomes spiritually clean when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Revelation 7:14), and a person becomes spiritually clean when he "**washed in water**" (Ephesians 5:26), then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**
- If a person's sins are remitted when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Matthew 26:28), and a person's sins are remitted when he is **baptized** (Acts 2:38), then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**
- If a person's sins are washed away when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Rev. 1:5), and a person's sins are washed away when he is **baptized** (Acts 22:16),

then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**

- If a person becomes saved when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Rom. 5:9), and a person becomes saved when he is **baptized** (1 Peter 3:21), then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**
- If a person's conscience rightfully becomes clear when he contacts **the blood of Christ** (Heb. 9:14; cf. 10:22), and a person's conscience rightfully becomes clear when he is **baptized** (1 Peter 3:21; cf. Acts 8:39; Heb. 10:22), then he must contact **the blood of Christ** at **baptism!**

Have you been **baptized to wash away your sins?** If not, you have not been **washed in the blood of the Lamb**. No one can be saved without **the blood of Christ**; therefore no one can be saved without **water baptism**. Being **buried by baptism into Christ's death** is the plan God designed for men to contact Christ's blood (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-5). Please understand the importance of being "**baptized into one body**" where Christ's blood is, and do not tarry (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:41, 47; 22:16; cf. Gal. 3:27). After baptism, walk in the light of God's Word through faithful obedience, and you will remain in contact with the blood of Jesus: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**" (1 John 1:6-7; cf. 1:8-10; 2:1-6, 28-29; 5:3; Acts 8:22-24; Rev. 2:10).

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