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
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:

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

\[
\begin{align*}
A & = C \\
B & = C
\end{align*}
\]

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).