



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Volume 14:4

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THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS AN EASTER MESSAGE

Picture, if you can, the scene at Calvary. Three crosses stand side by side on this the Place of the Skull as three men die like convicted criminals, condemned to one of the most barbarous forms of execution ever devised by man---crucifixion. But the central figure is no criminal. He is the Son of God, falsely accused and condemned. Nevertheless, He too must suffer along with His companions. Now look closer. Blood trickles down his face from the vicious crown of thorns roughly thrust on His head, jabbing cruelly into His scalp, matting His hair and beard with His own blood. His body is lacerated from the 39 stripes of the horrible flagellum with its metal weighted thongs when the soldiers lashed His back, which is now covered with blood. Nails are driven through the palms of His hands and the blood trickles down His arms and sides. Spikes are driven through His feet and more blood runs down the sides of the cross onto the ground beneath which is sodden red. Then a spear is thrust through His side and from it spurts blood and water. It is a spectacle of blood. Blood, blood, blood!

A Mysterious Substance

Blood is a mysterious substance. When God made man he formed a body from the dust of the ground, from numerous chemical elements of this planet. Then He breathed into this body some of His own spiritual life, life that was carried in the substance we call blood. Life itself is spiritual but it must have a physical carrier---blood. That is, the contact between the human and the divine is made through the bloodstream. And when the blood is gone the life is over, for the life is in the blood. Jesus' body was formed in the womb of Mary His mother, but the life in Him came from the Father through the Holy Spirit. No wonder Peter the Apostle called it *precious* blood---because it was perfect, without blemish or defect, not contaminated by Adam's sin. Moreover, it was priceless, beyond human reckoning---God's great sacrifice for the redemption of *all* mankind.

The Father's Will

But why did God allow His beloved Son to die in such a way? Surely He could have sent 12 legions of angels to save Him. But, no. It was the Father's will that He should so suffer and die. In fact, it had long been prophesied that He would be "despised and rejected by men, a Man of Sorrows... smitten by God and afflicted" (Isaiah 53). Again, why? The book of Hebrews tells us: "The children of a family share the same flesh and blood; and so He too shared ours, so that through death He might break the power of him who had death at his command, that is, the devil; and might liberate those who, through fear of death, had all their lifetime been in servitude." That is why, on the cross, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" It was all in the plan of God that His Son should shed His precious blood on the cross to redeem lost mankind. But how is the human race lost? It began with our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, when they disobeyed God and were enticed by the serpent Satan, the devil, to choose the forbidden tree of knowledge, surrendering control of the earth to the evil one. Ever since, his malevolent influence has been present in human affairs. This explains why there have been wars, man's inhumanity to man, his corruption, violence and depravity, and vile monsters such as Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Idi Amin et al who have massacred millions in their quest for power. However, we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God as He originally intended. And the only way to redeem us was through God sending His Son to reconcile the world to Himself, not counting our sins against us. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God... who made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:20-21)

The Feast of the Passover

When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt they were told to kill a lamb without spot or blemish and put the blood on the doorposts and lintels of their houses. Then the Angel of Death swept through the land, passing over every house protected by the blood but destroying all the firstborn of the Egyptians. In consequence, the Israelites celebrated the Feast of the Passover, a practice they followed down throughout the centuries, even as Jesus and His disciples did on the night He was betrayed. When Moses received the Ten Commandments he took the blood of calves and sprinkled the scroll saying, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep". In fact, God requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness". It is known as *The Atonement*. In other words, when anyone accepts that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for him, repents of his sins and turns back to God in faith, his sins are forgiven. The hymn writer fittingly expresses the heart's desire of anyone who earnestly wants to be forgiven and cleansed of his sin: *Lord Jesus, let nothing unholy remain/ Apply Thine Own blood and extract every stain/ To get this blest cleansing I all things forego/ Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Holy Communion

Essentially linked to the cleansing of the blood of Jesus is partaking of Holy Communion. When He first instituted this commemoration He said, "I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I give for the life of the world... truly, truly, I say unto you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." In 1 Corinthians 11 we read that after eating the bread, Jesus "took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the New Covenant in My blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." To drink the cup of communion is to declare to others, the world and the devil that Jesus shed His precious blood for your salvation and for all others who believe. The place of the blood in God's plan of redemption is glorious and immeasurable beyond words.

Great News

Jesus died and was buried. But on the third day God, through the power of His Holy Spirit, raised Him from the dead. For 40 days He was seen by the apostles and by more than 500 others. Then, while talking to His apostles on the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem, He was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight. But as they gazed intently into the sky after Him, two angels dressed in white suddenly appeared beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." Yes, He *is* coming back. That is good news! But there is more. See this wonderful promise from the Word of God: "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then when He comes, those who belong to Him." In other words, all who have accepted the gift of eternal life offered through His precious blood will come back to rule with Him in His glorious Kingdom on earth throughout His 1000 year millennial reign. Now that is great news! But it all begins with the fact that God loved the world so much He gave His only Son who shed His own precious blood to redeem everyone of us--if only we believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, and confess Him as Saviour and Lord with our mouths.

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, Spirit of the Great I AM, hallowed be Your name. As faithful ambassadors yielded to Your omnipresent Spirit of Life, we thank You for the finished work of Christ on the Cross when He triumphed over all the principalities and powers of the evil one. Omniscient Father, we come humbly united in Your Holy Spirit to proclaim Repent Australia's message, "The Precious Blood of Jesus" and thank You, Lord, for the wonder-working power of that blood to cleanse every one of us of *all* our iniquities. Abba Father, may that precious blood be honoured across this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, allowing it to purge all our leaders and citizens of their cynicism and unbelief, their rebellion, pride and unrepentance. We thank You that the bloodline has a heavenly source from which its redeeming power runs through the Scriptures like an endless scarlet thread to be ultimately fulfilled in JESUS the CHRIST on Calvary. Grant, O God, that we Your Spirit-filled servants may live in the power of Christ's precious blood that constantly flows like a never-ending stream offering eternal life through Him as Saviour and Lord. Finally, dear Father, may we all make ourselves ready to rule and reign with Him in His coming Kingdom of Righteousness on this earth, to the glory of God. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.