



THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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Page 1 of 3

THE BREATH & THE BLOOD

Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to shed His blood to secure salvation for man? Many secularists today are appalled at such a bloody tale and question such a sacrificial system. Why not just meditate to achieve "enlightenment"? Surely, they say, there is a path of quiet contemplation that can lead one to God...if He indeed exists. What kind of God would require such bloody barbarism as espoused by Christianity? Why the crucifixion of Jesus Christ to save mankind? Why did He have to die? What is the meaning of His shed blood?

We find the beginning of this mystery in Leviticus 17:11: "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*"

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that God created man in His own image. Renaissance artists have often portrayed God as an old man with long flowing white hair and beard based on this assertion. But is this entirely accurate? John 4:24 reveals a key point: God is a Spirit. Thus, man created in the image of God is also *spirit* as well.

Throughout the Bible, man is revealed to be a three-part entity: 1) our physical body of flesh, 2) our soul via the intellect/mind/emotions, and 3) our eternal spirit of consciousness. We may recognize a friend or family member as one entity, but we also realize that there is more to their person than that which can be seen. These three parts united make up that one person. Likewise "Elohim," translated "God" in English, is readily apparent to be a plural noun in the original Hebrew. Yet Deuteronomy 6, known as the "Sh'ma" (*Hear!*) in Judaism, tells us that God is One. This is the great, and unequivocally true, monotheistic assertion of the One True God of Israel.

Romans 1:20 confirms that the visible physical world was created to reflect the invisible spiritual world. The three-fold nature of man thus mirrors the three-fold nature of God. This does not result in three separate gods no more than you are three separate people. Rather, these unified attributes make one. In fact, the very root of the word unity carries the meaning of one; as in the Spanish word for one: "uno." Just as man is one in body, soul, and spirit, there is the bodily manifestation of God in Jesus Christ; the mind and will of God in the Father; and the Holy Spirit of God. This is known as the Triune or Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

So what's that have to do with blood? It is commonly known that without blood, life is impossible. Accident victims routinely require blood transfusions to keep them alive when an incident has occurred in which they've lost large quantities of blood. Why? From a medical perspective, it is the role of the cardiovascular system to carry life-giving oxygen to the cells of the physical body and, in turn, flush away harmful waste products. Without "Adequate Tissue Perfusion" by way of healthy blood, the cells of the body will die.

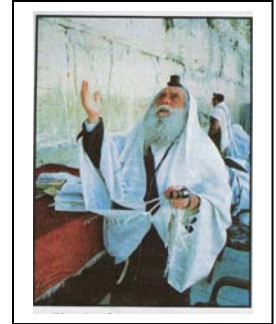
Genesis 2:7 records that God actually breathed life into man when creating his physical body. God's spiritual essence thus permeated man's body via the designed performance of his bloodstream. When man disobeyed God in the garden, this great sin spiritually contaminated his blood, and man's spirit died. This separation from God resulted in man's eventual physical death as his cells began to decay; no longer adequately perfused by the power of God. Man became in desperate need of a blood transfusion to restore not only his spiritual life, but physical health as well.

Enter Jesus Christ; by donating his pure blood to us, we are once again able to walk in fellowship with God. His uncontaminated blood can once again transport the life-breath of God throughout our being. By accepting His sinless blood transfusion, we are raised to walk in newness of life with Him. We are once again a living soul!



שְׁאֵלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lī'im ←--- Shalom ←--- Sha-alū



KEEPING THE FIG TREE

Events in the Middle East continue to propel us forward to the coming of the Lord. The Church Age is about to end with the rapture of the believer. This will leave the Jewish people, once again, as the only human witnesses to the One True God upon the face of the earth. During this last “week” of years spoken of by Daniel the prophet, the earth will experience a time of great trial and tribulation. Unfortunately, this time of Jacob’s Trouble will be exceedingly bad for the Jewish people as their greatest intercessors are removed from the earth into the heavens.

At some point in this seven year period, the spiritual veil will be removed from Jewish eyes and the people of Israel will, at long last, recognize their Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ. With this willing recognition they will begin to appeal to the Lord who will respond by returning in great glory to defeat Israel’s encroaching enemies and establish His millennial kingdom upon the throne of David. This triumphal event will begin the culmination of bible prophecy, fulfilling all messianic promises that the Jewish people have patiently awaited for thousands of years.

1 Samuel 12:22-23 tells us: *“For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name’s sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:”*

Point 1: God will NOT forsake His people. Not for Israel’s sake, but for His; it pleased Him to make them His.
Point 2: Let us not sin against the Lord in failing to pray for Israel, but show them the Way, the Truth, and Life.

Have you been interceding on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people? If not and you are a believer, do you realize that this failing is sinful? Bible-believing Christians throughout the world need to be on their knees in prayer making up the protective spiritual hedge that separates and protects Israel from her many enemies. The time is short, and the need is desperate. The Lord has placed this burden within my heart and the hearts of many more Spirit-filled Christian believers across the globe.

Are you one of them?

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 27:18: *“Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.”* The Fig Tree is well-known as the scriptural symbol for the nation of Israel. But how about you, are you a “Whoso”? We as Christians are tasked with the responsibility of keeping Israel before the throne of God in prayer and supporting her while here upon the earth. We have been made fellow partakers with her in covenant with God and have truly reaped the fruits of salvation by the blood of our Jewish-born savior, Jesus Christ.

Are you waiting on the Master? He is indeed coming quickly. Will you be held in honor for your faithfulness in defending and supporting His people? Matthew 25:40 assures us: *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

MARANATHA!



Psalm 115:17

“The dead praise not the LORD,
neither any that go down into silence.”

ARE YOU ALIVE?

Do you habitually praise and worship the Lord our God? Is your day filled with song and rejoicing in His goodness? Ephesians 5:19 instructs us: *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”*

If this does not describe your life, it may be time to examine it. The only people who praise not the Lord are those that are spiritually dead while here on earth and those that have physically died in that condition. Attending church doesn't make you a Christian. Doing good deeds does not secure your eternal salvation. If you never experience the strong burning desire to worship the Lord God, consider it *prima facie* evidence that you are spiritually dead. This is not the time to play games with your destiny or to ignore the calling of the Lord.

Psalms 150:6 commands: *“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.”*

God is the only source of that life giving breath. That breath can only be transported within your being by the blood of Jesus Christ. Every inhalation that He gives to us should return to Him in exhaled praise. Think about it.

If you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, you do not know what you are missing. The plot of a recent sci-fi movie was built around the concept of human beings living in a computer matrix program while blissfully unaware of their actual physical existence. This is not a perfect analogy to the Christian experience, since the movie did not adhere to the glories of a God-inspired existence, but the same type of delusion affects many in the world today.

This world is not my home.

I am bound for the eternal glories of heaven and I pray that you are too. If you're not certain of where you stand in God, won't you take this opportunity to simply ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior? Once He fills your heart, you too will be filled with singing and the continual urge to praise the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a sure sign that you are spiritually alive and well. May God richly bless and keep you. AMEN.

Rick Wagon is a born-again, Spirit-filled, firm believer in Christ who was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus. His father is a former Baptist minister who became Spirit-filled and received ordination from Rhema Bible Church bringing Rick up with a solid foundation of faith and knowledge of God's Word. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the LORD. Rick currently serves as the Bioterrorism Training and Education Coordinator for the State of Oklahoma and operates as the Intelligence Officer and Security Liaison in emergency capacities after a life-long commitment to public service in law enforcement and protective security. Rick is available for special services within your church or fellowship and loves to worship the LORD.

