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Praise Him with the timbrel and dance. (Psalm 105:4)

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“ In the heavenly Lamb thrice happy I am, And my heart it doth dance at the sound of His name.” Spurgeon

The Moth ©2011 ejr3

The moth was blind, his battered senses numb;  
This talk of ‘light’ to him was wasted time;  
Time better spent in groping for a crumb  
To satisfy the need he felt inside.

Such musing was for simple slugs and fools,  
To shield them from the pain of their sad plight;  
Just fools who find their joy in silly spools  
Of yarn about their precious ‘holy’ light.

And so the moth resolved to stop his ears,  
And thus was deaf as much as he was blind;  
Secure within a vault of long dark years,  
His only goal - the next small ort to find.

And then upon one ordinary day,  
A voice disturbed the silence of his mind;  
Awake! He heard this brash intruder say,  
And light shall pierce the darkness of your eyes.

And thereupon a strange and glorious fright  
Swept o’re the moth, as he recoiled in fear;  
He thought at once this strange thing must be light,  
Remembering things he once was loath to hear.

Now all that useless babbling he once shunned  
Is bursting on his eyes with colors bold.  
Defenseless, t’ward the glory flies he stunned,  
Knowing, now, the half has not been told.

As each stroke brings him nearer his bright goal,  
His mind remembers less his cold dark past.  
Glory upon glory yet unfolds  
Till gladly he’s consumed in light at last.

•ejr3

*Through the Bible in 2011: Part 8*

## Nothing But the Blood

*The life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul (Lev 17:11).*

*...without shedding of blood is no remission (Heb 9:22)*

Wherever one travels in the world, the concept of offering living sacrifices of one sort or another is prevalent, whether in relationship to religious worship, or in the pursuit of spiritual communication. In Africa, the animistic tribes offer bulls and goats to the ancestors to avert their wrath, and to enable the witchdoctors to communicate with them on their behalf. Even in America there are cults, today, that sacrifice animals in their rituals. There is within all men a latent witness to the need of a sacrifice to appease whatever ‘higher powers’ they seek to worship or communicate with.

This should not be surprising when we consider that it was God Himself who first introduced bloody sacrifices to our first parents. In fact, it was God Himself who *performed* those sacrifices, to the horror of Adam and Eve, who had never witnessed death. The object lesson was intense. The works of their own hands in creating clothing from fig trees could not quench the guilt of their consciences. Another living creature had to be slain in order to cover the shame of each before God. As we have previously seen, these sacrifices were done in conjunction with the promised *Seed of the woman*, who would be bruised by Satan, but would ultimately crush his head. We also find that the Lord had given them detailed instruction concerning sacrifices from the beginning. The need for blood sacrifices, and the identifying of clean and unclean animals, for example, were clearly demonstrated prior to the Flood, though not codified until the giving of the Mosaic Law.

But as we now come to that Mosaic Law in our journey through the scriptures, we find blood everywhere. *Almost all things, according to the Law, are sanctified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission [of sin] (Heb 9:22).* Our so-called *civilized* ears may recoil at such a barbaric concept; but remember, we cannot begin to grasp the terrifying impact the killing of animals must have had on the sensitivities of Adam and Eve. Bloody sacrifice *is* horrific! That is the point. Our sin before God is horrific, and requires a horrific atonement.

As we take a summary look at the Levitical law, two vivid concepts emerge. *God is Holy*, and, *God is Love*. The tabernacle reveals God's *loving desire* to dwell among His people; it also demonstrates His absolute abhorrence of sin, and His separateness from sinners. The entire tabernacle complex was cordoned off by high walls of white linen. Only God-ordained priests could enter the tabernacle. Unauthorized approach was met with consuming fire. Only the High Priest, once a year, could enter into that cubical section called the 'Holy of Holies', where God manifested His Presence among the people.

As Adam and Eve had to learn at the beginning, man's own efforts and ways are worthless in coming to God, and in averting His wrath. If there is to be a way, God Himself must provide it, and there is no just reason why He should. It was in sheer mercy and love that His *grace* provided a way through atoning sacrifice. And so, from that time in Israel, blood became preeminent in the worship and approach to God. Priests never entered the tabernacle without sacrificial blood; the High Priest's annual visit into the Holy of Holies was only possible with atoning blood. God said, "*The life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul*" (Lev 17:11). That declaration, and the entire sacrificial system, pointed once again to the Promised Seed. Of this fact the New Testament is clear:

*It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience. ...But Christ came as a High Priest of good things to come (i.e. the good things promised—ejr3), with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, ... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption for us (Heb 9:8-12).*

*For this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins (Matt 26:28)*

*...feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28).*

*...being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him (Rom 3:9).*

*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? (1Cor 10:16).*

*...He has made us accepted in the Beloved, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the*

*forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Eph 1:7, ref Col 1:14).*

*But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (2:13).*

*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself (Col 1:20).*

*...now once, in the end of the world, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Heb 9:26).*

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh... (Heb 10:19-20).*

*Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Heb 13:12).*

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1Pet 1:18-19).*

*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood... (Rev 1:5).*

*Now the God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13:20-21).*

This sacrifice of Jesus is of infinite value. Anything we might try to do, or sacrifice, to be made acceptable to God, is not only worthless, it mocks the sufficiency of His unspeakable sacrifice. We can only be made clean before God by being washed in the blood of the Lamb. That washing occurs the moment we look to Jesus in faith, trusting fully in His all-sufficient blood, and casting our lives into His loving arms.

**God is Holy—therefore sinners need a Savior;**

**God is Love—therefore sinners have a Savior.**

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