

The Lords Supper – Luke 22 v14-20 (“This is my blood - poured out for you”)

¹⁴When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. ¹⁵He said to them, “I have wanted so much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer! ¹⁶For I tell you, I will never eat it until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God.” ¹⁷Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes.”¹⁹ Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” ²⁰In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is God’s new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.

OT reading: Leviticus 16 v1-10

Blood Songs

Couldn’t Jesus have just died for us, without all that spilt blood?

Have you ever thought it is a bit strange when we sing hymns or songs about blood.

How about this hymn. When I was growing up as a young lad in a Baptist church, I really disliked one hymn, I thought words were both weird and unpleasant. **There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.**

Later as a young man, I was in Llanelli high street on a busy Saturday, the high street had bits of mess on it, and some rubbish being moved around by the strong breeze. There was also this big fountain, and some-one had poured a bottle of bubble bath in it, and there were huge wads of bubble foam blowing down the high street. Imagine though it was filled with blood, that had somehow been drawn out of the veins of Jesus, and people with guilty pasts were plunged into the fountain, getting covered in the blood then jumping out again, set free from their past and from all feelings of guilt, and dancing with joy in the streets of Llanelli still covered in blood. That would be an extraordinary sight.

This sentiment of blood acting like soap, and washing away guilty stains, is picked up again in another Christian song – **What can wash away my sin, what can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow, No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.** In this song the fountain of blood not just acts as a stain remover for guilt, but washes you white as snow as well. That is some powerful soap.

Another hymn emphasizes the power of this blood. **‘there is power, power wonder working power in the blood of the lamb’**. Now this fountain of blood is not just cleaning you it’s doing miracles in and through you as well!

When Jesus was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum he said Jesus said to them, **“I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves.** (John 6 v53). Now you can drink this miracle soap blood. Is it any wonder that a lot of his followers in Capernaum said that day **“This teaching is too hard, who can listen to it”** (John 6v60) Then some of them left him. “This is too hard, for that reason I’m out!”. But it was difficult, because first of all the Jews were forbidden to drink blood.

The importance of blood to the Jews

Moses had commanded Israel in God’s name not to eat or drink the blood of an animal. Blood was either to be sacrificed to God in the temple, or poured into the ground (Deut 12:23-27). Blood was forbidden not because it was impure, but because it was too pure, it was Holy. For Jesus and his fellow Jews, blood and its symbolism, was a part of their every day living, starting right from a baby when he was born in blood and circumcised at 8 days old (Luke 2v21). Women were isolated at times of bleeding, both in giving birth and in having their period. After giving birth to a boy, a young woman like Mary was given 40 days off, but if she gave birth to a girl, she got 80 days of seclusion (nearly 3 months) because the female baby herself was a potential bearer of children and blood. The seclusion of women was not a disgrace for them, but recognition that they were the only human source of God given life. Her bleeding meant that she was not meant to be in contact with others which afforded young Mums like Mary, the greatest time of leisure that she had had since being a small child. She could not go in work in the fields, and was spared the ceaseless chores of cooking, milling grain, cleaning house, mending and washing garments, caring for children etc.

Blood in child birth, blood in circumcision, blood from the animal sacrifices, was part of what made a Jew a Jew. Blood was the most Holy thing in Israel's purity system. It symbolised life itself coursing through their veins. It was what linked them to the Divine. But why?

Because our life comes from God. It is like he breathes into both our body and our blood. If our body dies (say a bus knocks you over and kills you) and our breath is gone, then the blood decays and stinks. It also dies. If on the other hand the blood is poisoned or you lose too much of it, then the body dies. It needs healthy blood. Life and blood need each other. We are only alive when the breath of God is in the blood, when that breath is no longer in your blood, you die. I think the Jews have always understood the importance of blood.

Even though the blood is a physical substance, with Gods breath in it, in Jewish history, it seems to hold some spiritual power. Such that if this blood is offered back to God in the form of a sacrifice then it releases, in the heavenlies, spiritual power to forgive. The spiritual power of the blood only came for the Jews when it was used in an offering back to God.

The Exodus

In Ancient Egypt Pharaoh had refused to let his Hebrew Slaves go free, despite having faced 9 horrific plagues as punishment for not doing so. Moses declared a tenth and even worse plague, where the angel of death would pass over Egypt and kill the first born son of every family, and of every domestic beast. However Gods people the Hebrews, were told by Moses to sacrifice a lamb, eat it with flat unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and smear blood from the lamb onto their door posts, which will be a sign for the Angel of Death to pass over and not harm anyone in the house. Exodus suggests there could have been 2 million Israelites, if it was even close to this then that's still a lot of door posts, a lot of slaughtered lambs, perhaps 200,000. **It was a lot of blood, but it did the job.**

This was the first Passover meal, and the blood brought them life. The Egyptians were in great distress at losing their first born, and Pharaoh released the Hebrew Slaves who had not lost anyone as the blood had protected them. As Moses commanded they remembered that first Passover, by celebrating its anniversary every year.

The Day of Atonement

Moses and his brother Aaron escaped Egypt and wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before the Hebrews eventually entered the land that God had promised them. In this wilderness time they set up, under Gods guidance, what become the covenant relationship between God and his people. This agreement has its commandments and laws but they also set up a series of Jewish festivals, including the Passover celebration. The most solemn of these was the Day of Atonement. There was no feasting on this day, the people were expected to fast, and mourn and repent, turn away from the things they did wrong. This was the day for the High Priest to atone, i.e. pay for the sins of the people.

In the temple there was a holy place where only Priests could go, but then there was the most Holy Place, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant lived. It was about 3 foot long chest made of acacia wood and covered in gold overlay covered in gold leaf. In the box were the stone tables on which God had written the 10 commandments. These had been broken by Moses where the Jews had been worshipping a golden calf. On top the box was a thick plate of solid gold, this was called the Mercy seat. Then at each end of the ark was a cherubim of hammered gold with their wings swept forward almost touching. In this space between the cherub wings and the mercy seat God was meant to dwell. He could look down at the broken tablets, and see the wickedness of the Jews, and how they break his commands and he can judge them for their sins.

Aaron who was high priest, and subsequent high priests were the only ones allowed into the Holy of Holies, and then just once a year, on this day of atonement. Before entering the tabernacle, Aaron bathed and put on special garments, then sacrificed a bull as a sin offering for himself and his family. He took the blood of the bull and sprinkled it onto on the ark of the covenant, He also brought two goats, one which was sacrificed because the people were rebellious and unclean. The blood was sprinkled onto

the Mercy seat. Now when God looks down, what he sees is the blood sacrifice, which he takes as payment for their sins.

The other goat was used as a scapegoat. Aaron placed his hands on its head, confessed over it the sins of the people, and sent the goat out with an appointed man who released it into the wilderness. The goat carried on itself all the sins of the people, which were forgiven for another year.

The blood meant for another year that God's anger at the sins would be appeased, the people's sin would no longer be seen by God, they were once acceptable to him. The holy life-giving blood of the goat paid the price. The scapegoat took away the sins into the wilderness so they could no longer cling to them, no longer had any influence over them.

They were acceptable to God and freed of their sins; at least for a year, when it would have to be done all over again. The Priests and those involved in handling the goats would then need to undergo ritual washings because of their part in the sacrifices.

The need to do sacrifices and ritual washings carried on year in and year out for at least another 1300 years. So for 1300 years of sacrifices. **It was a lot of blood, but it did the job.**

Temple sacrifices in the first century

By the first century AD, the temple which replaced the tabernacle had been built and rebuilt in Jerusalem. Under King Herod the Great, a fortune had been invested in building up the temple, which was a wonder of the world, covering 35 acres, or the size of 23 football pitches.

The stone altar for the animal sacrifices, was a huge firey complex barbecue pit. It was 75 feet square, which is so big you could fit two tennis courts side by side on the surface with room in between for the ball-boys. It was 23 feet high (i.e. as high as a two-storey apartment). Thousands of offerings every week were made, and as many as 250,000 lambs were killed at Passover. It was managed by a small army of priests who twisted off the necks of doves, and hauled and slaughtered the larger animals. They then skilfully moved them around with hooks and large handled forks shifting, then did the parching, burning and cooking of meats as required for different sacrifices, working for hours in the heat and smoke.

The river of blood was carried in drains out under the city wall, and into the Kidron valley, along with all the water used for ritual cleansings. Kidron means 'gloomy brook' perhaps because of the blood-stained banks. **It was a lot of blood, but it did the job.**

All of this was overseen by Caiaphas, who was the latest high priest in the line from Aaron. This was his empire and he didn't want to lose it. But after 1300 years of sacrifice, one man came and challenged the whole system; Jesus from Nazareth. He had been reported to Caiaphas saying that he would tear the temple down and rebuild it in 3 days. We usually say today, that Jesus was not talking about tearing down the physical temple, but that his body was God's temple which would be torn down on the cross, and be rebuilt in its resurrected form. But I think that whilst that's true, he had come to tear down their temple, not the structure which the Romans would do later in AD70, but the whole meaning of their temple sacrifices. He was about to make redundant their whole temple system of sacrifices, and all those employed in the doing. He was going to replace it all with a simple fellowship meal of bread and wine. But Jesus was no ordinary man, not just a carpenter Rabbi, but the much-awaited Jewish Messiah (come to save the people), **and** the Son of God. Jesus was the Son of God. He had the life blood of God pumping through his veins, and the Spirit of God flowing through his words and actions. He spent 3 years doing incredible teaching and miracles, and then came the day when he reclined around a low table with his twelve apostles to share the Passover meal with them for the last time. But this time, he gave it a whole new meaning, describing the broken bread as his own broken body, and the wine as his own spilt blood. He left the instruction to his followers that they should meet together regularly and share this simple fellowship meal.

The Act of Communion

For many years on a midweek I have celebrated Communion with other men in my lounge. We sit for 3 hours or more, talking about Jesus, the world, and politics. Look at News clippings and sometimes watch a video on some biblical theme. But around about 10.30pm we get into the main business of the night and we share the bread and the wine. Why bread and wine, if they are only symbolically. I have certainly done communion wherever I have been with whatever is available, so a cream cracker and bottle of coke might do. However there is something special about Bread and Wine. It tastes good. It is a very simple but enjoyable meal. Our favourite bread is one I buy from Sainsbury's some weeks with Olives in. A nice cheesy roll also hits the spot. Then we open a bottle of nice wine. It was a joy to share lovely wine with tasty bread. Jesus had instigated a simple fellowship meal in which you could enjoy the presence of friends, and at the same time enter into the presence of God. You can use the elements of this simple meal in a prayer time focussed on Jesus, his provision, his loving grace, his sacrifice on the cross, and his forgiveness.

We are taken back to the time when Jesus had an upper room prepared for the Passover meal. It was a time in which he became very clear about what was going to happen to him.

In this upper room, which was normally the guest room in a peasant house. With his twelve closest disciples they recline on each other around a low table. Their recorded conversation (John 13 v21-26) suggests that Jesus has John on his right and Judas on his left with the others following on in the direction from Judas with Peter on the end, having chosen to sit in the lowest position. This gets Peter right round the other side of the table where he is able to talk across it to John who is opposite, and leaning on the chest of Jesus.

In my own home, we also gather round a low table and I always use the model for Communion given in Luke's Gospel, which starts and ends with wine, but these 2 cups are most likely the first and third of 4 cups that are drunk in the Passover meal.

Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes."

The first of four cups of wine they took for Passover, the Kiddush, declares the cup as a symbol of joy, and as they take this first cup they praise God. Before they drink the Kiddush, Jesus gives thanks to God.

And that is where we start. We give thanks. All that we are and all that we have is from God, and we thank him for our friends, families, homes, food, jobs or pensions, freedom, etc etc. Any prayer time or praise time should ideally start in telling God how great he is and giving thanks for all he provides. In our praise and thankfulness to Him for all he is and all he has done we create the right attitude of heart, and thus a good environment for him to come and meet with us.

Jesus said he will not drink wine with them again *until* the Kingdom of God comes. But this is a quirk in Hebrew, which means that this will be the last Passover meal he ever participates in, full stop. Not only was Jesus, about to leave them the next day, at least in bodily form, but his death would mean that the Passover celebration would no longer be relevant for anyone. When they met in future they would not be remembering the lamb sacrificed at the first Passover, but they would be remembering his own death as the sacrificial lamb of God. These new meals would be more frequent and simple, as there was no longer the need to kill a lamb and eat it. Bread and wine would be enough, to remember what Jesus had done for them. Yet there is the promise that they will drink new wine with him in the heavenly kingdom [Note: [Matthew 26:29](#).]

So for one last time, their Passover meal progressed through the story telling of the first Passover, and then eating bitter herbs that represent slavery to the Egyptians. The flatbread is dipped into bitter herbs and passed out. This is where we see in John's gospel, we see Jesus dipping the bread and passing it to Judas, then telling him to go and quickly do what he had intended to do, his betrayal. (John 13v26-27).

Then they take a second cup of wine, the cup of plagues, remembering the destruction that God brought against Egypt. Then comes the main Passover lamb meal, after which a hidden piece of matzah (unleavened flat bread) is found (usually by a child) and eaten last in the Passover meal. Everyone breaks off a piece of bread and eats it. At this point in their last Passover meal Jesus relates the broken bread to his own body which will be broken for them.

¹⁹ Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

On our Wednesday communion gatherings as we break the bread, and remember our suffering Saviour who gave up his body on the cross. We give up our prayers for the broken world, for our sick friends, for our own concerns, and anything else where we desire to see the healing and transforming power of God at work. We pray his will be done. We take our time and each bring our requests to God, knowing that he loves us and hears us.

²⁰ In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.

As the Passover eating comes to an end a third cup of wine is drunk, the cup of Redemption. It represents the blood of the Passover lamb that was sacrificed for them.

Whilst the blood of the first Passover lambs that was spread on their doorposts brought some redemption, saving their first-borns from the angel of death, it was just a foretaste of what would do. The escape from slavery in Egypt and the complex set of rules and animal sacrifices was the old covenant. But these were pointers towards a time when this old agreement would be null and void. This is because God would set up a new agreement in which a once and for all sacrifice would make the animal sacrifices redundant, and they could not only be freed from their sins, but they could like the high priest, all enter into the presence of God. This new agreement or covenant was about to be signed and delivered, not in ink but in blood, as Jesus sacrifices himself on the cross for all mankind.

Claiming that he would end the old covenant, was an incredible claim, 1300 years after the Tabernacle, he is ending animal sacrifices, and thus the essential business of the Jerusalem temple.

As we take our second glass of wine, we pause knowing that for us this is the climax of our meeting. We know that each one of us, has done things and said things that week that we should not have. We have also omitted to do things and say things that we should have done. In brief we are well aware that we have fallen well short of what God requires of us. The bible calls this Sin. We have messed up, but know at this moment, we come to Jesus and say ‘sorry’ and ask for his forgiveness, knowing that as we do this, we are fully assured that we are forgiven. We ask for forgiveness, acknowledge that we have it assured, and then thank him for it. His blood has paid the price for that week’s mess, and has obliterated any record of what we did wrong. Thankyou Jesus for your blood, for the cup of forgiveness.. At that moment, that wine tastes **so** good.

The spotless blood of Christ that makes you and me as white as snow. If you take off your human covering off, we all look alike. We are white as snow before the Lord and therefore we do not need a priest. When God looks at you he doesn’t see all the sins you have done, all the mess you made with your life, he just sees the blood of Jesus covering you, making you acceptable to be in his presence. He sees a spotless son or daughter of God, with Jesus as your friend defending you.

The Passover finished with singing of the psalms, before drinking the fourth and final cup, the cup of praise. We may have met for 3 hours or more, but we often finish our evening singing the song ‘No longer Slaves’ which contain the wonderful words. – I’ve been born again into your family, your blood flows through my veins, I am no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God.

³⁰ Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26v30)

Then they sang, leaving the upper room where they had eaten, and left Jerusalem into the Kidron valley heading towards the mount of Olives, but stopping at the Garden of Gethsemane. As Jesus walked through the Kidron valley, surely with its blood stained banks from the river of blood drained out of the temple, it was a reminder of all the sins of his people. It was also a reminder of the cup of suffering he was about to drink and the purpose for which he came, to die as the perfect sacrificial lamb for our sins so that we might be restored to having a relationship with God.

Death on the Cross

In the Garden as night descended, Jesus prayed so intensely that it looks like he was sweating blood. In heightened states of stress and anxiety you can burst blood vessels under your skin which gives that effect. Judas, who had left their meal early, now came to Jesus in the garden with an armed mob to the arrest Jesus. They took him to an illegal night trial, in the High Priest palace, where he was falsely accused of blasphemy by the High Priest Caiaphas himself, who wanted him killed, but needed the romans to do it, and eventually convinces Pilate to hands Jesus over to the Roman solders to be whipped and crucified.

The soldiers tie Jesus to a post and use a leather whip with metal knotted into its thongs, to whip him severely until flesh falls off, and his back gushes with blood. This is the Passion, the precious blood of Jesus begins to flow down his back and legs. Anyone that has seen the Mel Gibson version of the Passion, will be left with no doubt that this was a very bloody scene.

The soldiers then put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and press it into his head, so now the blood flows freely down his face and shoulders.

He is led out the city to a rocky outcrop called the skull cap, Golgotha to where he is to be crucified. . The Romans strip him naked., and hammer nails through his hands into the cross-beam, then raise him up the pole, nailing his feet to the upright. Blood now flows over his hands and feet, and down the cross.

Jesus is covered in blood. **It was a lot of blood, but it did the job.**

John the Baptist had once gave prophetic insight when seeing Jesus, saying 'Look its the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. Jesus became the substitute for all the Passover lambs, he was unblemished, as he was without sin. The blood of bulls and goats could only atone for sins if the ritual was continually done year after year, but Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for all the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. His was the "once for all" sacrifice. His death, and his spilt blood, redeemed us, it paid the price, not just for what we have done wrong, but for all the things we will ever do wrong, as long as we place our trust in him. When Jesus died, raised and ascended, then he sat down at the right hand of God, and no further sacrifice was ever needed ([Hebrews 10:1-12](#)).

But not only did he take on the role of the goat that was sacrificed in Aarons tabernacle, but he also fulfilled the role of the second goat, the scape-goat, the one that took the sins away from the people so they no longer had any influence. (Leviticus 16 v10)

It is like if you do criminal acts, you may have to pay fines, do probation, or go to prison. You pay the price of your sin. But then you live the rest of your life with a criminal record. It can make it difficult to get jobs, or for others to trust you. Though you have paid the price, your past won't leave you alone.

But the death and spilt blood of Jesus is sufficient not just to pay for all we have dome wrong, but to separate us completely from our past sins. The Old Testament word atonement means to cover. This sins were covered over by the blood. But The blood of Jesus does not just cover up our sins and cloak our sins, it drives them out. It separates us from them. This is the total forgiveness that we receive when we accepted what Jesus did for us on the cross. The whiteboard that has been marked up all over with a record of all we had done wrong, has not been covered over by a white sheet, but has been completely wiped clean. There is no longer any account of what we have done wrong, in Gods books.

To me, there is still mystery that there is so much power in the blood of Jesus, but when you understand that blood is holy and symbolises very life itself, and animal sacrifice has the power to atone for sins in

the short-term, then as the whipping and death of Jesus spilt the life-blood of the Son of God, then it makes sense how much more redemption and how much more forgiveness is released by the blood of Jesus. We see from John chapter 1 that Jesus is God, he always existed, all creation comes through him, as does all light and life. He is therefore immeasurably greater than a goat! If there is a finite amount of power in the sacrificed blood of an unblemished goat or lamb, then it surely follows that there is an infinite amount of power in blood of Jesus Christ (who is without any sin to blemish him) when offered back as a sacrifice to God. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and his blood was sufficient for us all, for all time. **It was a lot of blood, but it did the job.**

Entering the presence of God

When His sacrifice was made, He declared from the cross, "It is finished" ([John 19:30](#)). The moment Jesus died, the heavy curtain in the temple (behind which lived the presence of God), split from top to bottom. This happened the minute that he committed his spirit into the Fathers hands. The divide between God and Man was torn down, the secret place was revealed. There was no more separation between Man and God. The Mission of Jesus was done.

The greatest gift you can ever be given is the blood of Jesus, because it is our pass into the presence of God. The only reason we do not need a priest, is because we are washed in the blood. When the Lord God looks at you from his throne he sees you drenched in blood. Red or Dead – without the blood of Jesus on us, we have no future.

It is a great feeling to be at a concert or a festival to have a backstage pass. You can go where most people are denied, and spend time with some of your favourite singers and musicians. Couple of years ago, my friend who is director of a musical festival took me back stage to meet Sir Bob Geldoff and the Boomtown rats who had been the first band we had seen together when we were teenagers. How cool was that.

But how much greater to have an 'All Access' pass to be in the presence of God. Because of the spilt blood of Jesus we get the privilege of doing was once restricted to just one man (the high priest) on just day of the year (the day of atonement), that is enter Gods dwelling place. But this is not just a one off pass, like mine was with Bob Geldoff, this pass never runs out. Because of the blood of Jesus, because of his death on the cross, we are made acceptable in God's presence and have this open invite to come at anytime and be with him. Access all areas.

Debt – paid

Debt can weigh heavy on you; feelings of guilt; unconfessed sin; unresolved arguments. Some of you are still carrying around the burden from that debt to God with you. It weighs on your mind. It affects your sleep. At times you feel trapped.

But your debt has been paid by Jesus. There was a lot of blood and did the job for you. Jesus has bought your debt with his blood, so let him have it, all of it. The blood Jesus has always been sufficient, and is no less so for you today. When we are trouble and need saving, there is always enough blood in the blood bank of Jesus of his blood type to save us.

The heavenly exchange rate is the best you will find (you'll do much better than trying to get Euros from your pounds). We hand over our guilt and sin, and He exchanges it for love and forgiveness. Now that's a top exchange. All made possible by the blood of Jesus.

When we are born into the world we are within our mothers blood and can come out with her blood on us. She gives us our physical birth and life. Though we can not see it, when we accept Jesus into our lives and we are reborn, we have the blood of Jesus on us, he gives us our spiritual birth and life. So becoming Christians, we are born into this new life, which has this new spiritual nature as well as our human nature. We have taken in the Spirit of God. Whilst our own blood keeps our physical bodies going, the blood of Jesus keeps our Spirit alive.

It is the blood of Jesus that makes it possible for us to be in God's presence, which then makes it possible to be filled with his Spirit, which then makes it possible to see his miracles in our lives.

Through his blood comes this miracle of salvation, where we find ourselves adopted into God's family, assured of our heavenly future.

Through his blood can come the cleansing of our minds. Perhaps a word that was said that cuts you up, a selfish act that shatters your confidence, or condemnation over your whole life. Our minds have been corrupted and injured by our pasts, but can now be set free and have a clear conscience. Hebrews 9 v14 says **His blood will purify our consciences from useless rituals so that we may serve the living God.** We are able to live right lives and think right thoughts once again in Christ. We can also be set free from depression, panic attacks, and other mental illness, all by the power of his blood.

Through his blood, comes the power to combat all sorts of physical illness. Our own blood fights off infections, and wraps itself around the offender to destroy it. The blood of Jesus can go one stage further, and can heal us of sicknesses, injuries and deformities that our own blood can't manage, which is why we still see miraculous healings of the body today. In 2 Peter 1 it says we take on his divine nature which includes his powerful blood, which can heal our sinful nature including sickness. Isaiah 53v5 declares **"By his stripes we are healed"**

Through his blood comes protection against attacks on us from our spiritual enemies. Whenever a virus attacks our physical body and begins to make us sick, our blood begins to fight with all that it has attacking this virus with white blood cells. When the enemy of your soul rises up against you, the blood of our Jesus covers us like a shield and that enemy that would destroy our soul is kept away. By his blood we live under his protection. Revelations (Rev 12v11) says they **"won the victory by the blood of the lamb"**

Because we are touched by the blood of Jesus, we are made Holy too. Holy does not mean we are perfect, it means that we are set apart for his divine purposes. 1 Peter 1v2 says **'You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood.'**

The blood and the spirit of God united, live in us, and the scriptures say, The bible tells us that **The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.** (1 John 4v4).

It means that we can go out into the world and stand firm in the promises that we are adopted into his family, and as such we can take authority over sickness and darkness in the name of Jesus, and we can pray the healing and restoring power of the blood of Jesus into the lives of others, as the Spirit prompts us and enables us to do so.

Hymns making sense.

When we understand more about the blood of Jesus those hymns that were at best confusing and at worst rather disturbing, now seem completely joyful and reasons to celebrate. If that fountain in Llanelli did have the restoring healing forgiving life-giving blood of Jesus flowing through it, I'd jump in.

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. – Thankyou Father

What can wash away my sin, what can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus. Thank you Jesus

There is power, power wonder working power in the blood of the lamb' – Thankyou Spirit

There is a lot of blood, and it did the job For you

Amen