

## Overcoming the Adversary (Part1)

***Rev. 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even in the face of death. (TLV)***

- **Introduction**

- Too often, when this scripture is expounded upon, I have heard the preacher only mention two things as weapons for achieving victory.
  - The blood and the testimony
  - There is a third weapon—“AND they loved not their lives even in the face of death.”
  - Sometimes this third element gets lumped in with the second as if the two things are interchangeable or the third is simply part of the second.
  - They are not interchangeable
    - Certainly, in some parts of the world, the one can (and often does), lead to the other, but in most of the world—not so much—or, at least not yet.
- Having said that, I also acknowledge that “death” can come in many forms besides physical death, and I will elaborate on that point in a future sermon, as well as the importance of our testimony.
- Today, I am going to focus on the first weapon of our victory over the adversary—the precious, powerful shed blood of Yeshua.

- **Blood in the Torah**

- In Judaism
  - Consuming blood is forbidden
    - Not found in anywhere else in the ancient Near East
    - Only prohibition (coupled with murder) that applies not just to Israel, but to all humankind (Gen. 9)
  - Blood can purge ritual impurity
    - Daubed on the horns of the altar,
    - Sprinkled inside the sanctuary
    - Purifying a leper [Lev. 14:4-6]
  - Create ritual impurity
    - Laws regarding the niddah, the menstruating or postpartum woman (Lev. 11-15)
  - When dashed on the sides of the altar, as in the case of animals sacrificed for food, its purpose is to expiate sin.

- First Mention of Blood
  - Gen. 4:10-11 (First specific mention of sin is in Gen.4:6-7) The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground! Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood at your hands.
  
- Bereishit 9:4-6
  - Only the flesh with its life, which is its blood, you are not to eat. Whoever sheds human blood, by a human being will his own blood be shed, for G-d made human beings in His image.
  
- Bereishit 15:9-10
  - This is G-d's blood covenant with Avram regarding the land. While blood is not technically mentioned in this passage, blood was plainly involved in the killing and cutting the animals in two.
  
- Bereishit 17
  - Circumcision (At this time, Avram's name was changed to Avraham.)
  - Again, blood is not specifically mentioned, but is clearly involved.
  
- Bereishit 22 The Akedah
  - A ram sacrificed in place of Isaac
  
- Shemot 12
  - The blood of the Pesach smeared on the doorways of the Israelites to protect them from the slayer of the firstborn
  
- Shemot 24: 4-8
  - Moshe wrote down all the words of ADONAI. He rose early in the morning, built an altar at the base of the mountain and set upright twelve large stones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent the young men of the people of Israel to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings of oxen to ADONAI. Moshe took half of the blood and put it in basins; the other half of the blood he splashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant and read it aloud, so that the people could hear; and they responded, "Everything that ADONAI has spoken, we will do and obey." Moshe took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which ADONAI has made with you in accordance with all these words."
  
- Let's Recap
  - At Moriah, the blood of a substitute was shed for one person
  - In Egypt, the nation that sprung from that one person applied the blood to their doorways
    - They learned that life can only be obtained by the death of a substitute



- Roman 5:8-9
- I Cor. 11:23-26
  - For what I received from the Lord is just what I passed on to you — that the Lord Yeshua, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and after he had made the *b'rakhah* he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial to me"; likewise also the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant effected by my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, as a memorial to me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes.
- Eph. 1:7-8a
  - In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace he has lavished on us.
- Eph. 2:13
  - But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.
- Col. 1:19-20
  - For it pleased God to have his full being live in his Son and through his Son to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace through him, through having his Son shed his blood by being executed on a stake.
- Messianic Jews 9:7, 11-14, 18-22
  - ...but only the *cohen hagadol* enters the inner one; and he goes in only once a year, and he must always bring blood, which he offers both for himself and for the sins committed in ignorance by the people.
  - But when the Messiah appeared as *cohen gadol* of the good things that are happening already, then, through the greater and more perfect Tent which is not man-made (that is, it is not of this created world), he entered the Holiest Place once and for all. And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever. For if sprinkling ceremonially unclean persons with the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer restores their outward purity; then how much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God!
  - This is why the first covenant too was inaugurated with blood. After Moshe had proclaimed every command of the *Torah* to all the people, he took the blood of the calves with some water and used scarlet wool and hyssop to sprinkle both the scroll itself and all the people; and he said, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has ordained for you." Likewise, he sprinkled with the blood both the Tent and all the things used in its

ceremonies. In fact, according to the *Torah*, almost everything is purified with blood; indeed, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- **Messianic Jews 10:19**
  - So, brothers, we have confidence to use the way into the Holiest Place opened by the blood of Yeshua.
- **Rev. 1:4-5**
  - Grace and *shalom* to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth's kings. To him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood.
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- **Rev. 5:9**
  - and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation.
- **Rev. 7:14**
  - Then he told me, "These are the people who have come out of the Great Persecution. They have washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb.
- **Rev. 12:10-12**
  - Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, "Now have come God's victory, power and kingship, and the authority of his Messiah; because the Accuser of our brothers, who accuses them day and night before God, has been thrown out! They defeated him because of the Lamb's blood and because of the message of their witness. Even when facing death, they did not cling to life. Therefore, rejoice, heaven and you who live there! But woe to you, land and sea, for the Adversary has come down to you, and he is very angry, because he knows that his time is short!"

- **What the Blood Does for Us**

- By the Blood We have:
  - Redemption
  - Reconciliation
  - Cleansing
  - Sanctification
  - Union with G-d
  - Life
  - Victory
  - Joy

- **Redemption**

- I Kepha 1:18-19

- You should be aware that the ransom paid to free you from the worthless way of life which your fathers passed on to you did not consist of anything perishable like silver or gold; on the contrary, it was the costly bloody sacrificial death of the Messiah, as of a lamb without defect or spot.
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- It is only when a believer understands what the other blessings are (reconciliation, cleansing, sanctification, etc.) and by what means they come can he/she experience the full power of redemption.
  - The foundation of all the other blessings is Redemption.
  - Without redemption, it is impossible to experience the other blessings
- Where Does the Power of the Blood of Yeshua Come From?
  - Vayikra 17:11
    - For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for yourselves, for the blood that makes atonement because of the life.
  - We see in Vayikra, Chapter 4 that the life/blood of a sheep or a goat is of less value than that of an ox.
  - How much more value is the life of man than that of an ox?
  - Consider the value of the soul/life/blood of Yeshua, the Son of G-d
    - That blood carried the very life, the very eternal life of HaShem himself
  - It's main power is that it was offered to G-d on the alter for redemption.
    - It was life given up to death to satisfy the Law of G-d
    - Sin was atoned for, it was covered, it was forgiven
  - Romans 3:25
    - God put Yeshua forward as the *kapparah* for sin through his faithfulness in respect to his bloody sacrificial death. This vindicated God's righteousness; because, in his forbearance, he had passed over [with neither punishment nor remission] the sins people had committed in the past.
  - Romans 5:8-9
    - But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners. Therefore, since we have now come to be considered righteous by means of his bloody sacrificial death, how much more will we be delivered through him from the anger of God's judgment!
- What Has the Blood Accomplished?
  - It Opened the Tomb
    - Messianic Jews 13:20
      - The God of shalom brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Yeshua, by the blood of an eternal covenant.
    - He came as the bearer of the sins of humankind. It was through the shedding of His sinless blood alone that He had the right, as a man, to rise again and to obtain eternal life through resurrection.

- He overcame the power of sin and destroyed the power of death and HaSatan himself.
- It Opened Heaven Itself
  - Messianic Jews 9:12
    - ...He entered the Holiest Place once and for all. And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever.
  - Messianic Jews 12:22-24
    - On the contrary, you have come to Mount Tziyon, that is, the city of the living God, heavenly Yerushalayim; to myriads of angels in festive assembly; to a community of the firstborn whose names have been recorded in heaven; to a Judge who is God of everyone; to spirits of righteous people who have been brought to the goal; to the mediator of a new covenant, Yeshua; and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better things than that of Hevel.
- It is All-Powerful in the Human Heart
  - Redemption means deliverance from slavery (in this case from bondage to the adversary himself) by means of emancipation or purchase
  - Redemption means everything that G-d does for a sinner from pardon for sin to the full deliverance of the body through resurrection
    - Romans 8 :23-24
      - We know that until now, the whole creation has been groaning as with the pains of childbirth; <sup>23</sup> and not only it, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we continue waiting eagerly to be made sons — that is, to have our whole bodies redeemed and set free.
- **Reconciliation**
  - The foremost of the blessings brought about by redemption
  - Romans 3:24-25
    - By God's grace, without earning it, all are granted the status of being considered righteous before him, through the act redeeming us from our enslavement to sin that was accomplished by the Messiah Yeshua. God put Yeshua forward as the *kapparah* for sin through his faithfulness in respect to his bloody sacrificial death. This vindicated God's righteousness; because, in his forbearance, he had passed over [with neither punishment nor remission] the sins people had committed in the past.....
  - II Corintihians 5:17-21
    - Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation — the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new! And it is all from God, who through the Messiah has reconciled us to himself and has given us the work of that reconciliation, which is that God in the Messiah was reconciling mankind to himself, not counting their sins against them, and

entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors of the Messiah; in effect, God is making his appeal through us. What we do is appeal on behalf of the Messiah, "Be reconciled to God! God made this sinless man be a sin offering on our behalf, so that in union with him we might fully share in God's righteousness."

- Sin has a two-fold effect
  - It affects G-d and it affects us
  - We usually think about how it affects us, but let's consider for a moment how it affects G-d
    - Sin is disobedience
    - It is contempt for His authority
    - It seeks to rob G-d of His honor as L-RD
    - It awakens His wrath.
    - It makes Him our opponent
    - In His holiness, Love and Wrath are united
  - Because of this, G-d ordained a plan for reconciliation—the blood
  - The Blood of Yeshua blots our sin; G-d remembers them no more
    - Is. 44:22
      - Like a thick cloud, I wipe away your offenses; like a cloud, your sins. Come back to me, for I have redeemed you.
    - Micah 7:18-19
      - Who is a God like you, pardoning the sin and overlooking the crimes of the remnant of his heritage? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in grace. He will again have compassion on us, he will subdue our iniquities. You will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.
- Restores Our Relationship with Adonai
  - From G-d's point of view, one who truly trusts and puts his/her faith in Yehua's shed blood is considered as being completely righteous.
- The righteousness of G-d no longer terrifies
  - It meets him/her as a friend
  - G-d invites a penitent sinner to have intimate fellowship with Him.
  - I Yochanan 4:9-10
    - Here is how God showed his love among us: God sent his only Son into the world, so that through him we might have life. Here is what love is: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the reconciliation for our sins.



- **Cleansing/Purification**
  - I Yochanan 1:7&9
    - But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin. If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing.
  - One of the the first results of reconciliation is cleansing/purification from sin
  - More than mere pardon for sin
  - More than cleansing from guilt
    - Guilt involves our relationship to G-d, and our responsibility to make things right.
    - The pollution of sin is the sense of defilement and impurity
      - This belongs to our inner being and is what needs to be cleansed.
- There were two types of ceremonies that Israel participated in to draw near to ADONAI.
  - Sacrifices/Offerings and Cleansings/Purifications
  - Offerings had definite references to transgressions that needed reconciliation
    - Nothing was done to the offerer himself
    - The blood was put upon the altar and/or carried into the Holy Place for him
  - Cleansings, on the other hand, had to do with things that were not sinful per se, but were a result of sin, and must be acknowledged as defiling, such as encountering a dead body
    - What happened to the person was the primary thing
    - He/She had to wash
    - He/She was sprinkled
- Scriptures Regarding Cleansing/Purification
  - Psalm 51
  - Ezek. 34:25
    - Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols.
  - Mal. 3:2-3
    - But who can endure the day when he comes? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like the soapmaker's lye. He will sit, testing and purifying the silver; he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold and silver, so that they can bring offerings to ADONAI uprightly.
  - Matt. 5:8
    - How blessed are the pure in heart! For they see G-d.
  - II Cor. 7:1
    - Therefore, my dear friends, since we have these promises, let us purify ourselves from everything that can defile either body or spirit, and strive to be completely holy, out of reverence for God.

- How Do we Receive Cleansing/Purification
  - Knowledge
    - That pardon for sins is not all that we receive through the blood
  - Desire
  - Willingness to separate ourselves from everything that is unclean
  
- **Sanctification**
  - Messianic Jews 13:12
    - So too Yeshua suffered death outside the gate, in order to make the people holy through his own blood.
  - Sanctification and Cleansing are not the same thing
    - Cleansing has more to do with old life and the stain of sin that must be removed
    - Sanctification has to do with our new life and union with G-d
  - Eph. 5:25b-27
    - Messiah also loved His community and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, having cleansed her by immersion in the word. Messiah did this so that He might present to Himself His glorious community—not having stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but in order that she might be holy and blameless.
  - Sanctification means “Separation,” i.e. that which is taken out by G-d’s command and is set aside for His own possession or service.
    - Does not just mean separation from sin, but from all that is in or of the world—even from that which is permissible.
      - Shabbat is sanctified (set apart)
        - The other days are not unclean, but shabbat is uniquely holy
      - G-d set apart the nation of Israel from the other nations
      - He set apart the priests from the rest of the nation
    - To be truly sanctified, a person must surrender willingly to the separation
    - She/he must be willing to say, "I belong entirely to G-d.”
  - **Life**
    - Yochanan 6:53-57
      - Then Yeshua said to them, “Yes, indeed! I tell you that unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life — that is, I will raise him up on the Last Day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in him. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live through the Father, so also whoever eats me will live through me. So this is the bread that has come down from heaven — it is not like the bread the fathers ate; they’re dead, but whoever eats this bread will live forever!

- Blessing of “Drinking the Blood”
  - Drinking water has a much more intimate connection with us than washing does.
  - In like manner, “drinking” Yeshua’s blood has a more intimate connection than being “washed” in His blood
  - Not only must His blood do something for us; it must do something IN us
    - Yeshua explained that drinking his blood, which contains His eternal life, gives us eternal life, as well
    - His Flesh and His Blood are the food that nourish the eternal life within us.
  - By drinking His blood, we become one with Him
  
- **Victory**
  - Rev. 12:5-9
    - She gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who will rule all the nations with a staff of iron. But her child was snatched up to God and his throne; and she fled into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be taken care of for 1,260 days.  
Next there was a battle in heaven — Mikha’el and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But it was not strong enough to win, so that there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown out, that ancient serpent, also known as the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.
  
- Victory was Gained Once for All
  - When HaSatan brought about the Fall of Man, he transferred the world to himself and became its prince.
  - Adonai allowed this to happen because He always the way of Law and Right.
  - Yeshua came in flesh, so He could fight and conquer the adversary on his own ground.
    - After he was recognized openly as the Son of G-d, he was led into the Wilderness to be tempted. Victory over HaSatan could only be achieved after He had endured and resisted his temptations.
    - That initial victory over temptation was not enough
      - Messianic Jews 2:14
        - Therefore, since *the* children share *a* common physical nature as human beings, *he* became like them and shared *that* same human nature; so *that* by his *death* *he might* render ineffective *the one who had power over death (that is, the Adversary)*
  
- Victory Comes Through Faith/Trust
  - I Yochanan 5:4-5

- because everything which has God as its Father overcomes the world. And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust. Who does overcome the world if not the person who believes that Yeshua is the Son of God?
- Conclusion
  - Victory over the forces of darkness involves three things
    - The Blood of Yeshua
    - The word of our Testimony
    - Our willing to surrender our very lives for Yeshua
  - The blood of Yeshua has great power
    - Power to redeem us from bondage to the adversary of our souls
    - Power to reconcile us to G-d
    - Power to cleanse us from all defilement
    - Power to sanctify us
    - Power to bring us into union with G-d
    - Power to give us life
    - Power to bring victory over the one who would seek to oppress us
    - Most of all, the power to bring the joy of heaven into our lives