

# 10 days of Prayer: The Red Thread.

When asking God what He wanted to happen during the 10 Days of prayer I heard the phrase, 'Red Thread'. I was immediately reminded of when I used this term when I lived in Sweden and I used it as a literary term when creating plays. It was the invisible narrative that ran through the whole play that you hang scenes, music or sketches on. It is the line that ties it all together. The Red Thread emerges both gradually as you watch each scene or section and more fully when you've seen the whole play. I know the process for my time when devising plays with others so that was helpful phrase to hear because it offers a way of building something as a collective. What I hope we will hear as we intercede with the help of the Holy Spirit are some of the details and moments that He wants us to hang on this Red Thread. Of course this is about members of the bride working together in unity.

Of course this is the Maker of the universe that said this to me so this one phrase also immediately resonated in other ways. He is Amazing! I was reminded of the red or scarlet thread that is used in Leviticus 14 for curing leprosy which was seen as sin in those days. That is more profound and brilliantly led me to understand the relevance of Blood, sacrifice, covenant and atonement as an overarching theme for the 10 Days of Prayer.

For those that want more information please see the research below on the scarlet thread that represents Jesus blood and sacrifice for our sin. Theologians often talk of a Scarlet thread that leads through the bible up until the day of atonement which by the way, is the final day of the 10 Days of Prayer. Atonement Day!

Research in no particular order:

## **The research on Red thread as a literary device. (As used in Sweden)**

Raymond Carver, Goethe, and even a popular French turn of phrase all talk about the red thread, a metaphor representing the invisible link between all events, consequences and causes.

Goethe says: "We have heard about one particular custom of the British Navy. All the rope used by the Royal Fleet, from the thickest to the thinnest, is twined in such a way that a red thread runs through all of them; it is impossible to remove the thread without undoing the rope and that means that even the smallest piece of rope can be identified as property of the Crown".

(<http://focus.ie.edu/read-thread>)

## **The Scarlet Thread through the Bible**

Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of **scarlet thread** in the window

which thou didst let us down by...and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. Joshua 2:18-19

Rahab, the woman spoken to in this passage, was a harlot in the city of Jericho. As the Israelites came to possess the land, her city was destined for destruction — and she along with it. But she was delivered, and her life transformed, simply by tying a **scarlet cord** in her window. This cord represented the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it pointed toward the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. In fact, all of the Bible is about Jesus Christ and His blood redemption, and you will find this scarlet thread throughout the Word of God.

### **The Prophecy of the Blood**

From the very beginning of human history, it is revealed. When Adam and Eve sinned, God shed innocent blood in order to make them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). This is a picture of the covering of righteousness that we receive when the Lord Jesus Christ died for us. In Genesis four we read that Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. They instinctively wanted to worship God. Cain sacrificed the fruit of the ground. Abel had already learned that God demanded blood, so he brought a lamb. God accepted the blood of Abel's lamb, but He did not accept Cain's offering. Why? Because "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin" (Hebrews 9:22).

And God told Abraham to sacrifice his long-awaited son Isaac (Genesis 22). Just before Abraham plunged the dagger into the quivering heart of his son, an angel stopped him. Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket. Isaac was set free, but an innocent animal's blood was shed instead.

Then, God wanted to deliver His people from bondage in the land of Egypt. On the night of the Passover, God instructed each house to slay a lamb and put the blood on their door. God said in Exodus 12:13, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

And in the tabernacle and later in the temple, thousands upon thousands of sheep, oxen, and turtle doves were killed and their blood spilt as sacrifices for sin.

And finally, the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross. His death was the fulfillment of all the prophecy and promises. Revelation 13:8 proclaims that He was slain before the foundation of the world. He came to die; He planned to die; He lived to die; and He was born to die.

Blood is throughout Scripture, but what does Christ's blood mean to us?

### **The Power of the Blood**

His blood redeems us. There was a price against us that we could not pay, but the blood of Jesus redeemed us. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things.... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

His blood brings us into fellowship with God. According to Ephesians 2:13, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Without the blood of Christ, man is a long way from God.

His blood makes peace with God. Man, by nature, is at war with God; and we can only come to

God on His peace terms — the blood atonement. The Bible says in Colossians 1:20, "And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself...."

**His blood cleanses.** Not only does it remove the punishment of sin, it removes the pollution. I don't care what sin you've committed; "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

His blood gives power over the devil. It's the blood that Satan fears. Revelation 12:11 says, "And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb...." The devil doesn't want you to learn about the blood. He hates it!

Before this planet was ever swung into space, God had determined in His heart that He would send His Son to die upon the cross. How wonderful it is to trace the scarlet thread of the blood of Christ woven throughout the Bible! How much more wonderful to experience its redemption personally. Praise God for the blood of His Lamb!

(<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/love-worth-finding/read/articles/scarlet-thread-through-the-bible-10591.html>)

### **The Ritual for Cleansing Healed Lepers**

14 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest. 3 And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper, 4 then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water. 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. 7 And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field. 8 He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days. 9 But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows—all his hair he shall shave off. He shall wash his clothes and wash his body in water, and he shall be clean.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22), and that's why the symbolism of the scarlet thread in the Bible is significant. The scarlet thread is the theme of atonement found throughout the pages of Scripture.

### **Scarlet.**

The word used for "scarlet" literally means the scarlet stuff that comes out of a worm. The coccus ilicis female lays eggs on the bark of a tree and attaches herself over the eggs as protection. As the larvae consume her body, her blood runs down the tree, staining it. If the

beetle was harvested at the right time, the blood could be used to dye fabric. The fabric for the Tabernacle and the priests' robes were presumably dyed this way, but the word for "scarlet" is also used in passages like Psalm 22:6 ("But I am a worm, and no man...") The dye was commonly used in ceremonial items, most likely referencing blood. But it also brings to mind sin, which, like blood, draws attention to itself in a cry for healing.



[www.omegazine.com/spiritual/worthystudy/worm.html](http://www.omegazine.com/spiritual/worthystudy/worm.html)

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