



September 21, 2009

The Scarlet Thread

By Teresa Hampton

My grandmother loved the Old Testament. She believed a fuller understanding of the Old would enhance one's understanding of the New. She had an intriguing way to connect the two testaments, revealing the overarching theme of the Bible. It is a technique I use today.

Granny helped us imagine a scarlet thread beginning in Genesis, weaving itself through the pages of the Bible all the way to the book of Revelation. We learned quickly that the scarlet thread was the blood of Christ. It was a fascinating study.

We saw the scarlet thread in Genesis when God told the serpent that the woman's child would crush the head of Satan (3:15). Jesus was the only person who was *uniquely* the son of a virgin woman (Matt. 1:23). In His resurrection Jesus dealt Satan a mortal blow.

The scarlet thread continued when God promised Abram that He would bless all the nations of the earth through his descendants (12:3). Jesus, descended from Abraham, brought together men of every nation through His sacrifice (Acts 10). Abraham obediently offered his only (one-of-a-kind) son on the mountain of God's choosing, Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22). God spared Abram's son that day, but later offered His *own* Son in the same place – Jerusalem was built on or near Mt. Moriah.

We saw the scarlet thread in Exodus, when God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a perfect, unblemished lamb and sprinkle its blood on their doorposts (12:21-22). They obeyed Him and God saved them from the death that savaged the Egyptian land. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was the sinless, unblemished sacrifice atoning for man's sin (John 1:29). When we obey Him, it is Jesus' blood that saves us from the death of sin.

We discovered the scarlet thread in Leviticus with the priestly offerings (1:1-3). Jesus, our High Priest, offered His blood once for all, making His the *better* priesthood, the *better* offering, the *better* covenant (Hebrews 8:6).

Granny continued to help us see the scarlet thread flowing through the rest of the books of law, history, poetry, and certainly with the prophets. With each new book and its characters we understood more about the connection between the testaments, about the blood of Christ, and the amazing, *overarching* theme of God's word.

Today's Verse: *"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).*

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