

The Covenant of Blood.

The ancient sacrifice had a twofold purpose: First, to teach love in the form of sacrifice; second, to teach righteousness or cleansing from sin.

These lessons were in harmony with the nature and character of God, and were intended to be a revelation of God by the kindergarten method, suited to the childhood of the race. Jesus taught the same lesson, but by a different method, that of actual personal revelation of God in terms of man.

The sacrifices were not peculiar to the Hebrews. Abel offered sacrifice before there was a Hebrew people, and they were common to many nations. Indeed, the idea of sacrifice seems to have been common to the whole human race.

The greatest gift is the life, and the fact that the life is in the blood led to the shedding of blood to represent the gift of life.

The *sacramentum* was the Roman soldiers' oath of allegiance. In the forming of a new legion, the ceremony was performed by collecting, in an upturned shield, a few drops of blood drawn from the arm of the captain and each soldier, by his own