

**Introduction: Victory through Faith: “Water & Blood” in 1 John 5:6
cp./w John 19:34, Physical Death cp./w Spiritual Death**

1) Remember that apposition is a grammatical construction which places one idea along side another so that the second explains the first.

2) We saw this back in verse 4 where victory was placed in apposition with faith. It stresses the point that our initial victory over the cosmic system is our faith.

1 John 5:4 - ... this is the victory which has been victorious over the cosmic system—our faith.

3) In verse 6 we see the idea of “water and blood” placed in apposition with “Jesus Christ” stressing the historicity of the Incarnation and our Lord’s true humanity.

4) This is one of several instances where John challenges the principles of Docetic Gnosticism which denied the true humanity of the Lord.

5) John goes out of his way on several occasions to drive home this principle for if Jesus is not true humanity then His sacrifice on the cross could not have been substitutionary for us.

6) Only a human being can experience somatic, or physical, death and John takes pains to document that our Lord experienced such a death on the cross.

7) John provides his eyewitness account in:

John 19:34 - One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately there came out blood and water.

8) After making this statement, John then inserts a deposition in order to confirm the fact that his testimony is absolute truth:

John 19:35 - And he who has seen this [John refers to himself] has made a deposition and his testimony is true, in fact, he knows that he is telling the truth so that you also may believe [πιστευω /pisteuō /].

9) John's deposition contains a statement which verifies the true humanity of Jesus Christ by presenting himself as an eyewitness to the somatic death of the Lord on the cross.

10) John writes 60 years after the event occurred. He saw it but those to whom he writes did not. He tells us what he saw so that we might through faith know that Jesus is the Christ.

11) Let's analyze the statement, "... there came out blood and water." Again the words in the Greek are:

αἷμα & ὕδωρ /*haima & hudor* / - "blood and water"

12) I'd like to emphasize from the standpoint of pathology, what is being communicated by John here. I quote from:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *The Blood of Christ*. 5th ed. Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1989; pp. 18, 22-23:

John 19:30 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

It was essential that when He died physically, His body should be leaning in a specific forward position, so that when the spear pierced His side, it would enter above the solar plexus and diaphragm, piercing the heart.

In somatic death, irreversible changes begin to occur at various rates after cessation of [lung] and heart action. These changes include cooling of the body, development of muscular rigidity, autolysis (the breakdown of the cells), putrefaction, and the gravitation of blood to dependent parts and the clotting of that blood.

At the moment of cessation of heart and lung action, Christ's blood began to sink into the dependent parts of His body and His internal organs. Instead of slumping down or leaning to one side when He dismissed His soul and spirit, our Lord purposefully thrust His body forward to demonstrate for all to see and for John to record that He did not die from loss of blood.

The word *hudor*, "water," is used in the medical sense for the grayish-yellow fluid that separates from the clot in the coagulation of blood. Thus, instead of "blood and water," a more accurate translation would be "blood clots and serum."

If someone dies from excessive loss of blood, clots and serum do not form; blood simply exits the body as whole red blood.

For blood inside the body to precipitate into clots and serum, death must not have been caused by bleeding.

Christ anticipated that Satan would attack the cross by perverting the meaning of the blood in an attempt to obscure the importance of spiritual death. Thus, while still on the cross, our Lord provided proof that He did not bleed to death and that, unlike the blood of a sacrificial animal, His literal blood has no spiritual significance.

13) In our study of Joshua we see him reintroduce the practice of the Passover once the nation is on the east side of the Jordan. It is the blood of the lamb which enabled them to successfully flee Egyptian bondage.

14) Remember, that Egypt is a type for the world, the environment of the unbeliever. The blood of the lamb is a type for the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. The Pharaoh is a type for the Devil as the ruler of the world. Moses is a type of Christ as the one who leads God's people out of bondage to the world.

15) With these things in mind let's do a little work on the doctrine of the Blood Christ