

Fundamental Truths - Redemption

Ian Gibson 2004

Redemption involves:

- the paying of a ransom price to set free a captive or slave from bondage
- the redeemed one is delivered out of the possession of another, and restored to freedom & blessing
- the work must be done by a near relative, or 'kinsman redeemer'

Purchase = a change of ownership or master, redemption = a change of state & condition, and the enjoyment of full deliverance.

Principles & Pictures of Redemption in the OT:

OT saints knew the truth of redemption (Job 19v25, Psalm 19v14, Isaiah 47v4)

Israel's Redemption out of Egypt (Exodus 12-15)

Israel experienced a great redemption out of the house of bondage on the night of the Passover, establishing the principle of redemption on the basis of blood (Exodus 6v5-7, 13v3, v14, 20v2, 15v13). It required the strong hand & power of God to effect redemption (Exodus 13v9, v14, 15v6, v13).

This pictures the great redemption that the believer in Christ enjoys (Romans 3v24, 1st Cor 1v30), delivered from the bondage of sin (Romans 6v17,18,22) & the devil (Col 1v13), based upon the shed blood of the Lamb of God at Calvary (Eph1v7, Col 1v14). It is the almighty power of God, inherent in the gospel, that has effected our redemption (Romans 1v16, 1st Cor 1v18).

The Law of the Kinsman Redeemer (Leviticus 25, Ruth 3-4)

Consideration of these OT passages shows that our Lord Jesus Christ is perfectly qualified to be our divine Kinsman Redeemer. There are 3 particular qualifications for the one who will undertake redemption.

1. Must have the right to redeem, i.e. be a near relative (Lev 25v25, v48-49), Boaz was a near kinsman to Ruth. The Lord Jesus became a Man to be our kinsman Redeemer (Hebrews 2v14-15).
2. Must have the ability to redeem, i.e. have the necessary resources (Lev25v26, v49), Boaz was a mighty man of wealth. Our Lord Jesus alone has the ability and resources to be our Redeemer due to His absolute sinless purity & perfection (Hebrews 4v15, 1st John 3v5).
3. Must have the desire to redeem, Boaz had greater desire than one who was a nearer kinsman. Our blessed Lord Jesus had the desire to redeem and pay the price for our redemption (Ephesians 5v25).

Redemption of the Purchased Possession (Jeremiah 32)

Jeremiah buys the field of Hanameel his cousin under divine instruction, pays an agreed ransom price (17 shekels of silver). The newly-bought field was to be overrun by the Chaldeans. Jeremiah had faith to believe that God would, in a coming day, redeem that purchased field.

At Calvary, the Lord purchased the field, i.e. the world (Mathew 13v44), He will in a coming day possess this whole world and reign over it (Eph 1v14).

The Doctrine of Redemption in the NT

Redemption and our Past – What We Have Been Delivered From

Galatians 3v13, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of a broken law by becoming a curse for us, by His death upon the cross in our stead.

Galatians 4v4-5, the coming of the Lord Jesus delivered or redeemed those who were under law, and delivered us all from the principle of law-keeping. Titus 2v14, redeemed from all iniquity, i.e. lawlessness, from self-will.

1st Peter 1v18-19, redeemed from a vain conversation, from a meaningless & empty manner of life, from mere tradition & empty religion.

Redemption delivers us from self-will to the divine will, from lawlessness to a life of obedience to God's word, from empty tradition to a meaningful relationship with God, from the bondage of failed law-keeping to fulfilling the righteous requirements of the law (Romans 8v3-4).

Redemption and our Present – Practical Results of Deliverance

Bought With a Price - 1st Cor 6v19-20, the truth of purchase, we belong to the Lord, our responsibility must be to please Him & glorify Him.

The price Christ paid was His own precious blood (Eph 1v7, Col 1v14, 1st Peter 1v19, Rev 5v9, Heb 9v12), procuring a precious redemption (Ps49v8).

The price paid at Calvary makes salvation available to all humanity (1st Tim 2v5-6); all are purchased, but not all will be redeemed (2nd Peter 2v1).

For us all, our redemption required equally the precious blood of Christ. In the tabernacle, the half shekel of silver for the redemption money was mandatory for all (Ex30v11-16), used to make the sockets of silver for supporting the upright boards of the tabernacle structure (Ex 26v19).

Redeemed unto our God - Titus 2v14, a redeemed people will be pure & holy, a people suitable for His own possession, separated unto our Lord, who will worship & serve God (1st Peter ch2v5&9), for the pleasure of God.

1st Peter v17, those who know of redemption will be marked by a reverential & holy awe as we live before our God (Deut 6v12-13), and behave in a way that is worthy of the redeemed of God, showing obedience to all the word of God (Exodus 20v2 & Deut 5v6).

This was God's desire for Israel (Ex6v6-7, 19v4-6), but they failed to obey (Judges 6v8-10).

Redemption and our Future – The Deliverance We Still Wait For

Creation's Future Redemption - The millennial reign will see creation redeemed (Rom 8v19-21, Eph 1v10-14).

The Saints Future Redemption - We are waiting for the redemption of our bodies (Rom 8v23, Phil 3v21, 2nd Cor 5v1-2), the indwelling Holy Spirit is the pledge or assurance to us that this will take place (Eph 4v30).

Israel's Future Redemption - When Christ came first they rejected Him (Luke 2v38, 24v21). But there will yet be redemption for that Nation (Luke 21v27-28, Isaiah 59v20, 35v8-10, 44v23).

In light of such redemption, we should thank our God; "*O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy*" (Ps 107v1-2).