

Christ on the Cross, part 3

Jesus Died for Our Freedom (Redemption)

"...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." -Titus 2:13-14

What is redemption not?

Sadly, it has been commonly taught by some Christian theologians since the early days of the church (e.g. Origen) that the concept of redemption was adopted from the pagan slave market where a price was paid to free a slave. This led to wild speculation that Jesus died to pay off Satan which is preposterous as Jesus owes Satan nothing. Present-day liberal theologians have wrongly said that because redemption was a concept taken from paganism that the Bible endorses paganism. Therefore, to accommodate current paganism they re-cast Jesus' work on the cross according to modern pagan thinking such as goddess worship, radical environmentalism, and other religions.

What is redemption?

Redemption is synonymous with being liberated, freed, or rescued from bondage and slavery to a person or thing. The word and derivatives thereof (e.g. redeemer, redeem) appear roughly 150 times in the English Bible, with only roughly 20 occurrences in the New Testament. The prototype for redemption is not the pagan slave market, but rather the deliverance of God's people from slavery and tyranny under Pharaoh also known as the Exodus. There, God liberated His people but in no way paid off the satanic Pharaoh but rather simply crushed him.

Redemption (*Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary*)

the purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom. The Greek word so rendered is *apolutrosis*, a word occurring nine times in Scripture, and always with the idea of a ransom or price paid, i.e., redemption by a *lutron* (see Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45). There are instances in the LXX. Version of the Old Testament of the use of *lutron* in man's relation to man (Lev. 19:20; 25:51; Ex. 21:30; Num. 35:31, 32; Isa. 45:13; Prov. 6:35), and in the same sense of man's relation to God (Num. 3:49; 18:15). There are many passages in the New Testament which represent Christ's sufferings under the idea of a ransom or price, and the result thereby secured is a purchase or redemption (comp. Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Gal. 3:13; 4:4, 5; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Rev. 5:9). The idea running through all these texts, however various their reference, is that of payment made for our redemption. The debt against us is not viewed as simply cancelled, but is fully paid. Christ's blood or life, which he surrendered for them, is the "ransom" by which the deliverance of his people from the servitude of sin and from its penal consequences is secured. It is the plain doctrine of Scripture that "Christ saves us neither by the mere exercise of power, nor by his doctrine, nor by his example, nor by the moral influence which he exerted, nor by any subjective influence on his people, whether natural or mystical, but as a satisfaction to divine justice, as an expiation for sin, and as a ransom from the curse and authority of the law, thus reconciling us to God by making it consistent with his perfection to exercise mercy toward sinners" (Hodge's Systematic Theology).

Exodus 6:6-9

6 Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.8 I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"9 Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Other verses providing the Exodus as the prototype of redemption include Exodus 15:1-18, Deuteronomy 7:8 and 15:15, 2 Samuel 7:23, 1 Chronicles 17:21, Isaiah 51:10, and Micah 6:4.

Who is our redeemer?

The theme of **God the Redeemer** echoes throughout the Old Testament (Ps. 78:35; Isa. 44:24; 47:4; 48:17; 63:16; Jer. 50:34; Hos. 7:13; 13:14).

In the New Testament at the birth of **Jesus** it is prophesied that **He is God the Redeemer** (Luke 1:68; 2:38). Paul also speaks of **Jesus as our Redeemer** (Rom. 3:24; 1 Cor. 1:30; Gal. 3:13-14; 4:4-5; Eph. 1:7; Titus 2:13-14).

How has Jesus redeemed us?

Hebrews 9

11 Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.13 For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh,14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 Peter 1

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

How do we receive Jesus' redemption?



Romans 3

21 The Righteousness of God Through Faith

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it---22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

What has Jesus redeemed us from?

- The curse of the law (Galatians 3:13)
 - 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us---for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"---14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.
- Satan & demons (Colossians 1:13-14)
 - 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- The flesh (Romans 6:6-7)
 - 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- The world (Galatians 6:14)
 - 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

What redemption still awaits us?

- Life forever with God (Psalm 49:15)
 - 15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah
- The return of Jesus (Job 19:25)
 - 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
- A resurrection body (Romans 8:23)
 - 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.