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## God is our redeemer (Redeem Pt 1)

This is our first study on the word *redeem* in the Holy Scriptures. The word *redeem* occurs 56 times in 40 verses, *redeemed* 62 times in 61 verses, *redeemedst* once, *redeemer* 18 times, *redeemeth* twice, and *redeeming* 3 times. To establish a meaning we will first consult the dictionary, then the Greek and Hebrew, and finally a meaning from the Scriptures.

### A) Dictionary meaning:

According to the Oxford dictionary *redeem* means “1. Buy back, recover by expenditure of effort, or by stipulated payment. 2. Perform (promise). 3. Purchase the freedom of (another, oneself), save (one’s life) by ransom. 4. Save, rescue, reclaim; (of God or Christ) deliver from sin & damnation. 5. Make amends for, compensate.”

### B) Hebrew and Greek:

i) In the Hebrew there are four words that are translated *to redeem*:-

\* *galah* is also translated - *in any wise, at all, avenger, to deliver, kinsfolk, kinsman, to do the part of a kinsman, near kinsman, to purchase, to ransom, redeemer, revenger, and to stain.*

\* *padah* is also translated - *to deliver, by any means, that are to be redeemed, to rescue and surely.*

\* *p'duwth* is also translated - *to break, to deliver, to rend in pieces.*

\* *kanat* is also translated - *to attain, to buy, buyer, to get, owner, to possess, possessor, to recover, surely and verily.*

ii) In the Greek there are three words that are translated *redeem*:

\* *agorazo* also means *buy*, and

\* *exagorazo* only means *redeem*, and

\* *Lutroo* also means *should have redeemed*.

For the word *redemption* there are two Greek words:-

\* *apolutrosis* is also translated *deliverance*, and

\* *lutrosis* only means *redemption*.

### C) From the Scriptures:

The Scriptures provide various meanings for the word *redeem*; *rescue* or *save* (Gen.48: 16, Ex.6: 6, Deut.7: 8, 2Sam.4: 9, Job 6: 23, Ps.77: 15, Gal.4: 5 & Tit.2: 14), *deliver* (Mic.4:10), *buy back* (Lev.27: 12, 15, 19, 20, 27 & 28, Num. 3:46, 48, 49 & 51, Eph.5: 16, & Rev.5: 9), *purchased* (Ps.74: 2), *ransomed* (Jer 31:11) & *save ones life by a ransom* (Ex.34: 20). Behind many of the verses that refer to *rescue*, *save* and *deliver* is the concept of God buying back that which is in debt, we see this especially with what Christ did on the cross, where His blood that He shed on Calvary, paid for that which was owed, in the form of a sin-debt by each person. Therefore, our primary meaning from Scripture for the word *redeem* is *to buy back that which is in debt*.

In this study we will cover three points:- (1) God redeems His people by His greatness, and (2) God redeems His people by His power, and (3) God redeems His people by blood.

Let us add a little detail to our points:-

#### 1. God redeems His people by His greatness.

Deut.9: 26 *I prayed therefore unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.*  
See also Neh.1: 10.

Many verses in Scripture say that God redeemed Israel. See Is.44: 6 *Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I [am] the first, and I [am] the last; and beside me [there is] no God.* See also; Ex.6: 6, 13: 13, Deut.7: 8, Isa.41: 14, 62: 12, Jer.50: 34, Zech.10: 8 and Ps.78: 35.

Our verse in Deuteronomy says that God redeemed His people through His greatness. Ps.66: 3 says that our enemies submit to God through His greatness, which shouldn't surprise us because the action of God redeeming His people from under the bondage of the Egyptians who were their enemies demonstrates this greatness when we view the events of their exodus from Egypt. And once in the land, He continued to redeem Israel from under the hand of their enemies (Ps.25: 22). God Almighty, not the golden calf, redeemed His people Israel (not Ishmael's descendants), through His greatness. Along with God redeeming the nation of Israel the Scriptures also record that He redeemed individuals like David (see Ps.31: 5, 2Sam. 4: 9, 1Kg.1: 29 & Lam.3:58).

In the New Testament we see the Lord God of Israel has again redeemed His people (see Lk.1:68). However, as we see in Lk.24: 21, many in Israel limited God's redemption to defeating their enemies, to perhaps stretching out His hand to take them out from under the hand of the Romans, but God's redemption through Christ, which was to eventually include the Gentiles, was not offered through smiting their enemy, but by the cross of Christ at Calvary, and Israel as a Nation missed that, they shed the innocent blood, then after His resurrection they denied the gospel of Christ crucified, and hence Paul went to the Gentiles (Acts 18: 6 & 28: 28). Yet, on the cross God redeems His people by His exceeding greatness (see Eph.1: 19). On the cross, in all His weakness, and helplessness, the Son of God offers His people and the Gentiles redemption. On the cross God paid the price for our sin, He bought back that which we owed, our debt and He paid the debt with His "only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn.3: 16). Both Jew and Gentile today need no other redemption from God, we do not need God to pay any more of our sin-debt by sending us to Purgatory, because on the cross, He paid our sin-debt *in full*. The Scriptures say that Christ *has* redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal.3: 13). Whereas in the Old Testament Israel were often redeemed by God from under the hand of their enemies, they would sin, then He would buy them back, He would redeem them with His outstretched hand, by His greatness! The golden calf never showed them its greatness and lifted its finger to redeem them from under the hand of their enemies, and neither does Buddha today. Baal never showed any of the Israelites that worshipped him his greatness. He never lifted his hand to redeem them from under the hand of their enemies, and neither does Allah today.

Let us acknowledge that it is only God Almighty, the God of Holy Scripture, that redeems His people by His greatness, and today He has done so through His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 2. God redeems His people by His power.

Neh.1:10 *Now these [are] thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.*

Often linked with God's greatness is His power, His strength, and Paul speaks about the exceeding *greatness of his power, to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power* (Eph.1: 19). And it is by His mighty power that outstretched His arm (Ex.6: 6) to redeem Israel. It is the same greatness of power that encourages God's enemies to submit to Him (see Ps.66: 3), and His great power that defeats them. Both are evident when God stretched out His hand against Pharaoh who after ten miracles realised that the God of the Hebrews, He is Lord (Ex.14: 4), and he submitted to His will and let the people go (see Ex. 12: 29-31). Yet, it was the same power that later caused Pharaoh's death. It was only by God's great power that He divided the Red sea and smote all the Egyptians when the sea returned, in doing so God redeemed His people by His power.

David asks the Lord to preserve those that are appointed to die by the greatness of His power (Ps.79.11). He believed, unlike the Jehovah Witness, that his soul would be redeemed by God from the power of the grave (Ps.49: 15), just as we who believe the Holy Scriptures, do today. God *will* redeem the soul of the believer today by His power.

Therefore, God's great power redeems a man's soul from the grave, and causes His enemies to be defeated.

Today it is exactly the same. Christians are redeemed not by their good works, not by their power, not by the powers of Purgatory, not by the powers of the Pope, and not by denying that they have sinned, but a man is redeemed today by the power of God, and according to 1Cor.1: 18 *the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God*. Hence, it is at the cross where we see the ultimate power of God.

Regardless of dispensation, regardless of the age a person lives in, God Almighty redeems His people by His power. To attribute any part of our redemption to ourselves and our own good works is blasphemy, it goes against everything the Bible says about God's redemption of His people. If you know of people who call themselves Christians, yet they believe they *contribute* to their salvation, they believe their good works contributes to their redemption, then be encouraged to work with them, asking the Lord to speak into their hearts that they through His grace alone, may come to the knowledge of the truth, that God alone redeems His people and He does so through His great power.

### 3. God redeems His people by blood.

Rev.5: 9 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

See also; Ex.6: 6, Mic.6: 4, Lk.1:68, 24:21

Whether in the Old Testament or the New, God redeems His people by blood. In the Old Testament it is the blood of a spotless lamb, bull or goat, that is offered up yearly for the sin of the people. But as we know from the book of Hebrews, the blood of bulls and goats cannot *take away* sin (Heb.10: 4), and it was a sacrifice that had to be *repeated*. Therefore, God sent His Only begotten Son, as a *one-off* sacrifice, and He was sinless, and His blood takes away our sin, it washes us clean, and we are redeemed by His blood.

Whereas Israel could lose their salvation, they could lose their redemption, by doing evil. Today when a person believes the gospel of Christ crucified, and he does so in his heart, then he becomes a new creature in Christ, and that work is not and cannot be carried out by a human being, but only by the shed blood of Christ Jesus. The person's redemption is final, once a believer is redeemed today, he is *forever* redeemed by the blood.

A believer is justified freely by God's grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Rom.3: 24), and grace is often expressed as "God's Riches At Christ's Expense" (GRACE). God has paid humanities sin-debt from His riches, at the expense of Christ's blood, and therefore, for those who believe God, those who believe the gospel of Christ, their belief taps them into what God has bought for them, at Christ's expense. Their belief gives them access to the cleansing power, to the redeeming power of Christ's blood.

It is not a sacrifice that we take part in each Sunday by drinking the blood of Christ, we cannot access the redeeming power of the blood of Christ by obeying the commandments, going to confession, being baptised or believing another gospel, but **ONLY** by believing in our hearts the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and trusting that His blood washes our sin as far away from the east is to the west. In doing so His blood redeems us, and we are saved from the pit of hell.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again. In this our first study on the word *redeem* in the Holy Scriptures we have covered three points:-(1) God redeems His people by His *greatness*, and (2) God redeems His people by His *power*, and (3) God redeems His people by *blood*.