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## God Redeems His People for a Purpose (Redeem Pt 2)

This is our second study on the word *redeem*. In our first study we 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. In this study we will cover four points:- (1) God redeemed Israel to be His people, and (2) God redeemed Israel to make Him a name, and (3) God redeemed Israel to do great things for them, and (4) God redeemed the Gentiles that they receive adoption.

Let us add a little more detail to our points:-

### 1) God redeemed Israel to be His people.

1Chr.17: 21 *And what one nation in the earth [is] like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem [to be] his own people...?*

See also: Ex.15: 13 & 2Sam.7: 23.

If the Bible is true and God really has redeemed, saved and bought back a particular people, a particular nation, He didn't choose them because they were righteous, but because he loved them. He didn't rescue them from under the hand of the Egyptians because they were the largest in number of any nation, but he redeemed them to be His people because He loved them (Deut.7: 7). He defeated bigger and more powerful nations as He took Israel to their promised land (Deut.4: 37, 38 & 11: 23). He only asked that they obey His law, His statutes and His commandments (Deut.27: 10). If these events in the Bible are true, is it any wonder that other nations would hate that chosen nation, they would seek to kill them, as many have tried to do to Israel over the years?

The Holocaust is just one example where those who were descendants of the nation of Israel were systematically murdered for being Jewish. The History Holocaust Museum "Yadvashem", writes "The crime of being a Jew was so great, that every single one had to be put to death – the men, the women, the children; the committed, the disinterested, the apostates; the healthy and creative, the sickly, and the lazy all were meant to suffer and die, with no reprieve, no hope, no possible amnesty, nor chance for alleviation." The Roman Catholic Nazi regime showed such hatred for the Jew that they treated them worse than dogs, they systematically killed 6 million simply because they claimed to be God's people.

When God sent his Son the Lord Jesus to redeem His people Israel and the Gentiles, He purchased them with the blood of His Son, He redeemed them through the life of His beloved Son who walked the earth and in whom was no sin (1Pet.2: 21 & 22). On Him who committed no sin was placed the sin of the world (1Jn.2: 2), such that when a Jew or Gentile believed God, and what Christ did on the cross, they were washed clean by His blood, they were redeemed and received the righteousness of Christ. The Jew or Gentile today only has to believe God, call on the name of His Son and he will be redeemed; he will be saved (Rom.10: 10). And just as the nation of Israel has claimed to be God's chosen people and have been persecuted because of that claim, so have Christians also been persecuted, for believing in Christ, just for claiming that Christ Jesus is their Lord and Saviour.

How would you feel if you were an idol-worshipping Buddhist and some man claimed to know the only way to be redeemed is through Christ?

How would you feel if you were a polytheistic (believes in multiple gods) Hindu who bowed down to his gods, and some man told you that there was only *one* God who redeems all those who believe in Him and His Son? I would feel gutted if I believed in a false god, whether that be Allah, Buddha, or Krishna, especially given that when I die, I would be thinking that I was going to heaven, yet really I was destined to hell-fire. But that is what the Bible says, there is no point in watering it down, as the "Bible" College lecturers do, like Canon Dr. Tim Meadowcroft where he seeks to please man (see Gal.1: 10) by making God Almighty the same as Allah and so compromising and changing what the Scriptures teach. Other scholars like Dr. Tim would have students believe the Lord Jesus opened the door to redeem *all* men to be his people, regardless of whether they believe Him or not. Which do you believe, the Holy Scriptures, or those

who teach in our Bible colleges and stand in our pulpits and teach universalism that asserts all will be saved, all *will* be redeemed to be God's people through Christ, regardless of whether they personally trust as the Saviour?

Let us remember that we are not called to compromise or change the words of Scripture, we are called to believe them, encourage others to do the same, and obey them. If that is you, then let us proclaim to those we meet that God redeemed Israel to be His people, and today He has redeemed all those who believe in His Son to be His people.

## 2. God redeemed Israel to make Him a name.

2Sam.7: 23 *And what one nation in the earth [is] like thy people, [even] like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name...?*

See also 1Chr.17: 21.

The Lord redeemed Israel to make Him a name. In the Old Testament He had numerous names that include the Lord of hosts, the holy One of Israel (Is.47: 1), Jehovah and God Almighty. (Ex.3: 6). And His name is from everlasting to everlasting (Is.63: 16). The only way people around the world get to hear about His name is if His people Israel, in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament makes known the name of their Saviour. In the Old Testament Gentiles became proselytes (Matt.23: 15) and today both Jews and Gentiles proclaim the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament He bought, paid for, and redeemed His people, by His outstretched hand, and with every breath they took they were encouraged to speak of Him. Hence, Israel was redeemed to make known the name of their God to the heathen. Today, in this dispensation God has redeemed the believers by His Son to make known *His* name, the name that is above every name (Phil.2: 9), and His name is the Lord Jesus Christ. So when a Jehovah's Witness says they are Christian yet only call Jesus Christ the Son of God and never refer to Him as God, or the Lord Jesus, and they only appear to use Jehovah for God's name, are they making known His name? When it comes to using the Lord's name and glorifying His name, the Jehovah's Witnesses are no different to the heathen who use His name as a swear word when they want to curse something, in doing so they take the name of the Lord in vain and disobey the law (Deut.5: 11). Therefore, just because people call themselves a Christian, a believer, and names the name of Jesus Christ, this does not make them a Christian.

I know some brethren who do not like to call the Lord Jesus Christ, "Jesus", and would prefer to use His full name the Lord Jesus Christ. Whereas, before I came to the knowledge of the Authorised Bible many Christians including myself would simply refer to the Lord as "Jesus". You listen to Radio Rhema and see how they refer to Him. Why would some prefer to use His full name? Perhaps because it brings Him glory, perhaps because it makes known His name, His full name, to others. Since hearing those testimonies I have made a conscious effort to use the Bible name for the Lord, which is the Lord Jesus (Lk.24: 3), or the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 11: 17).

Let us remember that God redeemed Israel to make Him a name, and He then redeemed those in the church age, to make known the name of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us encourage each other to make known the name of our Saviour who redeemed us by His blood. And His name is the name above all names, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 3. God redeemed His people to do great things for them.

2Sam.7: 23 *And what one nation in the earth [is] like thy people, [even] like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people...?*

From the same verse that gave us our previous point, we establish a second reason in the verse why God redeemed His people. He saved them; He rescued them to do for them great and terrible things. And who did He want to see those great and terrible things? The nations who worship false gods. For the God of the Bible to be the One true God, He alone was able to rescue Israel out from under the hands of the Egyptians and redeem Israel that they would do great and terrible things. Hence, when the people sinned and the Lord told Moses that he would destroy them, Moses thought of how that would affect the fame of God in the eyes of the other nations (Num.14: 15 & 16). His great and marvellous name would be tarnished. Perhaps because of the reports from those nations that they had overthrown, where they feared Moses their leader and later Joshua (see Josh. 4: 14), yet here He is now “unable” to fulfil His promises. And the Lord continued to do great and terrible things for Israel when they arrived in the land. For example, the Lord raised up young lads of fair countenance like David (1Sam.17: 42) to kill giants like Goliath (verse 50). Why? To make known the name of the Lord (our first point) and to do for His people great things, and in each case, He rescued them, He saved them from their enemies that worship false gods; He redeemed His people for them to do great things in the sight of the nations who worship other gods.

Can you think of any New Testament examples? How about when Paul was bitten by a viper on the island (see Acts 28: 3) and those with him thought that he would die, yet God redeemed him from the poison of the viper and the people soon changed their tune and called him a god (see verse 6). So the fame of God would have spread as his children showed forth great things. The greatest of all such things was to give forth His only begotten Son. It was such a great thing, yet His Son had to undergo such a terrible death on the cross and to bear the burden of all of our sin on the cross, and He did it all for us.

Since you have been redeemed what great things has God done for you?

Let us remember that God redeemed His people to do great things for them.

#### 4. God redeemed those under the law that the Gentiles might receive adoption.

Gal.4:5 *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Gal.3: 13 asserts that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, then in Gal.3: 4 we read that it was God who sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (verse 5) to redeem them that were under the law. Who were under the law, the Jews or the Gentiles? According to 1Cor.9: 20 it is the Jews that were under the law, and historically that is correct. By virtue of being given the law the nation of Israel were under the law. Yet doctrinally for this the church age, all those who reject Christ, Jews & Gentiles are under the law (see Rom.3: 19), and that is the reference in our verse, to both Jew and Gentile. A Jew is born into the family of God, and it is a Jewish occurrence to be *born again* (Jn.3: 10). This phrase is not used to refer to a Gentile, but only a Jew. Whereas a Gentile is made into a new creature (2Cor.5: 17). Why? Because Gentiles are by nature not sons of God and are therefore *adopted* into the family of God and thus become children of God. How? Both Jew and Gentiles are saved, rescued from hell, redeemed *by* the blood of Christ. Saved Gentiles have not replaced the Jew of the Old Testament as some Christian denominations believe, but we are become joint-heirs with them in Christ (see Rom.8: 17).

We did not get rescued by God smiting our enemies, raising the dead, giving sight to the blind or any other miracle. God saved us Gentiles by redeeming us who were under the law of sin (as were the Jews), when God the Father turned His face away from His Son, who in obedience to His Father hung on a cross for our sin, and was beaten and died for our transgressions. On the cross is where we see the power of God, over and above all that He showed to the nation of Israel in the wilderness. On the cross God, through His Son, redeemed those who were under the law that the Gentiles might receive adoption as children of God. We are now known as a son, not a servant, an heir of God through Christ (see verse Gal.4: 7).

Having said what we have said let us say it again. In this our second study on the word *redeem* in the Holy Scriptures we have covered four points:- (1) God redeemed Israel to be His people, and (2) God redeemed Israel to make Him a name, and (3) God redeemed Israel to do great things for them, and (4) God redeemed the Gentiles that they may receive adoption.