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God Redeems & the redeemed sell themselves to Satan (Pt 5 Redeem)

This is our fifth study on the word **redeem** in the Holy Scriptures. In our previous study we asked what has God redeemed us from, and why? We answered from the Bible with four points; (1) God has redeemed us from our enemies, and (2) God has redeemed us from the things of this world, and (3) God has redeemed us from death, and (4) God has redeemed us that we would come to the knowledge of the truth. In this study we will look at three additional points; (1) God redeemed Israel, therefore He required obedience, and (2) Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God, and (3) God purchased Israel and they responded by selling themselves to Satan. Let us add a little detail to our points:-

1. God redeemed Israel, therefore He required obedience.

Deut.15: 15 "And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day."

See also Deut 24:18

In our studies on the word **redeem** up to this teaching, we have established that God redeemed Israel with His outstretched arm, He saved them as a particular people unto Himself. And today God has redeemed us by the blood of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. So the Creator of the heavens and the earth gave His ultimate sacrifice, that of His own beloved Son, for our sin, He paid the debt we owed Him for our sin; He purchased us back to Himself. What an awesome God!

And many Christians today stop there and say, because of God's love He redeemed us, he rescued us, and God loves them as they are, whether they be a sodomite, witch, or vampire. And like all false doctrine there is "some" truth to that, God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, and yes, "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn.3: 16). But to say, as the Pope does to the Sodomite, God loves you regardless of your sin, that is **false**. Or as the Sodomite minister says to her congregation that "one day the church will repent because of how they have treated gays", thereby, encouraging sodomites that their sin is good, which is **false**, as the Bible says that God looks on the act of a man lying with a man as an **abomination** (Lev.18: 22).

In all ages God redeems, saves, rescues the believer from the pit, and in each dispensation God requires the believer to obey His heavenly Father. The law was given to Moses, and Israel was told that they had to obey the law, if they did they would receive blessings and if they disobeyed His law then they would receive curses (Deut.27: 9-28: 2). When they offered sacrifice and burnt offerings while their heart was set on disobedience, He asked them, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken, than the fat of rams" (1Sam.15: 22). The Lord **commanded** His children Israel to obey Him, He doesn't just hope they would do justly; He **required** it of them (see Mic.6: 8). God redeemed Israel therefore they were required to **obey** His commandments. And so did the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, when He said, "if you love me, keep my commandments" (Jn.14: 15).

As Paul also wrote to the church requiring us to live holy, to yield our "instruments unto holiness" (Rom.6: 19). God does not **ask** us to repent from sin that is revealed in the law, but rather He **commands** all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17: 30). John said "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1Jn.5: 3).

Let us not decide **which** commandments of the Lord we obey, but rather let us obey **all** of His commandments, because He has redeemed His people, He has redeemed us from the grave, He has saved us from the pit of hell. He gave us His only begotten Son, and "he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." There is no other response from those who receive eternal redemption, there is nothing more God requires from those whom He has purchased with the blood of His Son, except that we **obey** Him.

2. Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God.

Hos.7: 13 "Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me." See also Ps.78: 12-16 & 36.

God saves, rescues, buys back His people yet they flee from Him, they sin against Him, and they lie about Him. How does that make sense? Why would they do that? When did Israel begin to lie about their God, their Saviour, their Redeemer (Is.48: 17)?

The first account of Israel lying about their God that I can recall is when He rescued them with His outstretched arm from under the hand of the Egyptians and Moses went up the mountain, and the people made a molten calf and called that which they had made with their own hands, their gods that brought them out of Egypt (see Ex.32: 4). Yet the dumb, blind, powerless golden calf couldn't move 5 metres from where it was made, so how could it logically have brought them out of Egypt? So the people lied, the calf **did not** bring them out of Egypt, but God Almighty **did**. Hence, Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God.

In the New Testament there was the example of Peter, whom the Lord prophesied would deny Him thrice, and that is exactly what he did. When asked three times if he knew the Lord Jesus, each time Peter lied about his God, he lied about knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh (1Tim.3: 16). Hence, just before God redeemed His people Israel through His Son, Peter lied that he knew Him not.

When do the redeemed of the Lord today lie against their God?

When we look to the Scriptures of truth we find that those who believe not the record call God a liar (1Jn.5: 10). Now we know that God has given us a record of His written words, preserved in the English text of the Authorised Bible. For those who believe that God has **not** preserved His words and therefore we can use any one of the 200 plus versions, they **cannot** believe that God preserved His words and that everyone of them is pure, as His word says. Therefore, those who use one of the 200 plus versions of the Bible, may **say** that they believe God, and **perhaps** they do, but when they believe only **some** of His words and not **all** of them, then how does that show that they believe His record? And if they do not believe His record, then they are calling God a liar, yet they, being part of the body of Christ, are redeemed by believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, which is written in the same book that describes God's words as pure and perfect. If that is the case, what is the difference between those who believe **some** of God's words today and Israel when they called God a liar, when they claimed that the golden calf was their god? If you do not believe **all** of God's record, then you are saying you believe some of what God says and you are **choosing** to **not** believe other words that God has said. The result of this reasoning is that God has told some truth in His written revelation but He has also lied in the record we have, because He said that **every** word is pure. Therefore, they believe the record of His Son and are saved by believing, yet once redeemed by the blood of the lamb, they respond by saying that God is a liar, and hence **they** lie about God.

Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God. I suggest to you today that many in the church who are in Christ, yet deny God's promises of preservation and purity of His words, also lie about their God.

Let us keep in mind the weakness of humanity by the example of Israel who having just seen God part the Red sea, lied about their God, calling the calf **they** made, their "gods". In doing so Israel responded to God's redemption by calling their God a liar.

3. God purchased Israel and they responded by selling themselves to Satan.

2Kg.17: 17 "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger."

See also 1Kg.21: 20, Is.50: 1

Is.50: 1 says that **God** did not sell His people to their creditors, but rather Israel sold themselves by their transgressions. That's right, God Almighty, creator of the heavens and the earth, purchased His people Israel, He redeemed them, and they responded by selling themselves to the devil. And it wasn't just one person that did so, it was whole generations that sold themselves to Satan. There was generation after generation, king after king, who turned to Baal and served him, and who made groves unto Ashtaroth. Then in the greatest rejection of God possible, the Jews, as a nation, rejected their prophesied Messiah, the one that was called the Christ. They not only rejected Him, but they crucified Him as a criminal and released a known criminal. They nailed the Holy One of Israel to a cross, even though He committed **no** sin (1Jn.3: 5). In doing so, that

generation responded to God's redemption for that nation, freely given to them by their Father when He gave His only begotten Son, by selling themselves to Satan and hanging the Just One on a cross. Then in the first century of the church, after the Lord appeared to Paul, the nation of Israel rejected the gospel of Christ crucified, and Paul turned went to Gentiles (Acts 28: 25–29), because the Jews responded to God's redemption by again selling themselves to Satan by rejecting their prophesied Messiah.

The early church who knew God's redemption also sold themselves to Satan, as we see with the example in the book of Acts where Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost about selling all his possessions and bringing all they had to be made common, yet kept back part of the price for themselves (Acts 4: 32). In doing so he did not disobey what was written in their law, rather what was agreed on by all, then they deceived their brethren, they lied to their brother in Christ by only bringing part of the price they got for their possessions (Acts 5: 2). However, Peter then clarifies their sin, by pointing that their actions were not a lie to their brethren but to the Holy Ghost (verse 3). Hence, this point follows on closely from our previous point, as with this example it is Satan that has filled their heart to lie to the Holy Ghost. And as we know, the Holy Ghost is the third member of the Triune Godhead (1Jn.5: 7, 8), therefore, Ananias lied to **God**. Hence, God purchased Israel who responded by selling themselves to Satan, as do some in the church, who follow after Ananias.

For those poor souls in the church age who believe they can lose their salvation when they sin, they know what it feels like to be on a roller-coaster ride, where you are purchased by God one moment, but then, according to their doctrine, when they sin they lose their salvation, hence, God buys them back then they sell themselves back to the devil again, and again. But today we cannot **ever** lose our salvation, we are, from the moment we believe, sealed unto the day of redemption (see Eph.1: 13). Our right standing before God, which has been bought for us when we believed that Christ bore our sin on Himself, will never change, however, we can still sell ourselves to the devil. Perhaps there is an example of this in the New Testament where a member of the church who was a fornicator having taking his father's wife (1Cor.5: 1), was to be delivered by the church "unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (verse 5). Hence the one who had done such a deed that was considered worse behaviour than the Gentiles, even though his spirit was saved unto the day of redemption, he nevertheless had thus sold himself to Satan by his iniquity. Which indicates that when a person in the church age who is saved, and therefore in Christ, chooses to walk in sin, or call their sin good, they have sold themselves to Satan. Hence even though God had purchased them, and redeemed them by the blood of His Son, they responded by selling themselves to Satan.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again. In this our fifth study of the word **redeem** in the Holy Scriptures we have looked at three points; (1) God redeemed Israel, therefore He required obedience, and (2) Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God, and (3) God purchased Israel and they responded by selling themselves to Satan.