

3 Aug 2014

God redeems us from the curse to set us free (Pt 6 Redeem)

This is our sixth study on the word **redeem**. In our previous study we covered three points; (1) God redeemed Israel, He therefore required obedience, and (2) Israel responded to God's redemption by lying about their God, and (3) God purchased Israel, they responded by selling themselves to Satan. In this study we will look at three additional points; (1) the Lord redeems because of His love, and (2) Israel thought the Messiah would redeem **them** from the bondage of their enemies, and (3) God sent His Son to redeem Jew **and** Gentile from under the curse of the law.

Let us add a little detail to our points:-

1. The Lord redeems because of His love.

Deut.7: 8 "But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."

See also Deut.4: 37 & Is.63: 9.

Our verse from Deuteronomy says that God Almighty did not choose Israel because they were a righteous people, but because He **loved** them (see Deut.7: 7, 8). The verse from Is.63: 9 says "in his love and in his pity he redeemed them". Deut.23: 5 says that it was because of God's love that He "would not hearken unto Balaam;" but "turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee." The queen of Sheba told Solomon that the Lord God delighted to set **him** "on the throne of Israel: because the Lord loved Israel forever" (1Kg.10: 9 & 2Chr.9: 8).

In the New Testament record it is written that God Almighty loved the world so much that "he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn.3: 16). Why does God redeem, rescue or save His people? Because He **loves** them. So if Allah never redeems, rescues or saves his people, does that mean that he does not love them? And we know that he did not have a son to send into the world by which to show the world how much he loved them. Hence, it looks like Allah does not love those who are prepared to die for him. What would a Muslim say if you asked him "how does Allah show his love to you? Does he redeem or save you from anything? If he does, what does he redeem or save you from, and can you give one example in the Qur'an, or in the world today of Allah redeeming his people?" Yet, the God of Israel, the God of the Holy Scriptures, He redeems, He rescues, He saves His people from their enemies, and He sent His only begotten Son to save them that believe Him!

What about Buddha, does he redeem, rescue or save his people? What would a Buddhist say if you asked him "how does Buddha show his love to you?" Does he redeem, or save you from anything? If he does, what does he redeem or save you from, and can you give one example in your holy writings, or in the world today, of Buddha redeeming his people? Yet, the God of Israel, the God of the Holy Scriptures, He redeems His people from their enemies, and He sent His only begotten Son to save them that believe!

You could ask the same series of questions of any person that worships or believes in any false god, whether they be Buddhist, Muslim, or Hindu, and get the same response. False gods, are deaf, dumb, and blind, and cannot love anyone, so there are no examples of their gods saving, rescuing, or redeeming anyone. Even some who worship these false gods can see the God of Israel redeeming and rescuing His people as we see in 2Chr.20: 29, and in Israel today, see http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/24811Default.aspxutm_source=news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Nosidebarnews-1&utm_content=1316. Therefore, the fact is so plain that even some pagan worshippers see the truth that God redeems His people, and is therefore different to all other gods. Whereas, there are some who teach at our Bible colleges who claim to be "Christians" yet believe that all gods are the same as the God of the Bible. But how can they be speaking and teaching truth, if only **one** God loves His people, and only **one** God shows His love to His people by redeeming them from their enemies?

2) Israel thought the Messiah would redeem **them** from the bondage of their enemies.

Lk.24: 21 "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done."

Given the history of the nation of Israel when the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, it won't surprise you to read in the Scriptures that Israel believed their long-awaited Messiah would redeem them from under the bondage of their enemies, the Romans. So when the Lord Jesus lived a humble life, teaching, and preaching and then being put on a cross, they concluded that Jesus Christ could **not** be **their** Messiah, based on **their** interpretation of Scripture. How did the Lord Jesus reply? "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."

That is right, the Jews did not interpret their Scriptures correctly, they erred not knowing the Scriptures, as Jesus told the Sadducees (see Matt.22: 29).

He didn't leave them in their foolish state of confusion, but rather, "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." He responded by giving them interpretation, by rightly dividing the word of truth. He did not take one passage and expound that. He did not take one chapter and expound that, no, he went from beginning to end and "expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Lk.24: 37). How that he (Messiah) must suffer and be risen again.

What was the consequence of the Jews' interpretation of Scripture? Error that has been perpetuated down through the centuries, generation after generation.

For the Jews of Jesus' day, they interpreted their Scriptures that Messiah would redeem **them** from their enemies when He came, and their not knowing the Scriptures meant they missed the biggest event in their lifetime. They believed not that the Lord Jesus was the Christ, that he was the prophesied Messiah of Israel. They could not have understood Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks (Dan.9: 24-27). They could not have understood Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant (see Is. 52: 13 - 53: 12) that would redeem them by His own blood, His own death on the cross. For those individual Jews today who reject the Lord Jesus as Messiah, they still hope in their fathers' interpretation, hence they will be hoping that the Messiah will return and vanquish their enemies and He would redeem them from their bondage, just as he did when their forefathers were under the hands of their Egyptians masters.

What can you think of today that is similar? I think many Christians believe that God will rescue, save, redeem them from their illnesses as he did in the first century NT church, because they read certain scriptures and apply them to today, rather than coming to the book and rightly dividing the books and the ages for which they are written. This example is nothing compared to the error of the NT Jew that resulted in them crucifying the Lord and then later not believing in Paul's gospel, but rather their own interpretations of the Holy Writings, and receiving the consequences of that error. But it serves to remind us that if Israel can get it **so** wrong and understand their Messiah as coming to redeem **them** from their enemies, rather than as a suffering servant, then we need to be mindful of the guidelines provided in the Scriptures for how we are to interpret the Book, using right division (2Tim.2: 15), and no man having his private interpretation (2Pet.1: 20). What would you say to the Jew today about their interpretation of the Messiah coming back to redeem Israel from their enemies? I would say, when He came to live among Israel He was called to suffer for our sins, He will return in the clouds at which time he will rapture the church, then He will come back to rule the earth. Hence, what they interpreted to be His first coming as a redeemer of His people from their enemies, is actually going to be His second coming when He will come and rule over Israel. But the Scriptures are hard to understand (2Pet.3: 15), and as we see with the Roman Catholic church today who believe with all their heart that **they** are the **true** church, redeemed by Christ **and** their own good works, and **they** have replaced Israel. And that belief is in the face of the institution fulfilling the characteristics of "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (Rev.17: 5).

So let us pray for the nation of Israel today as they continue to wait and hope that their Messiah would come and rescue, redeem and save them from their enemies. One thing is certain, they have just as many enemies today as they did when Christ was on earth, and today they only need do what Paul asked them and they will be saved, i.e. to believe in the gospel of Christ crucified. So today, let us pray for the Jew who is waiting for Christ to redeem them from under the hand of their enemies, that they would come to know Christ as their Redeemer and so be taken up in the clouds when Christ raptures the church. Amen!

3) God sent His Son to redeem Jew and Gentile from the curse of the law.

Gal.3: 13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] everyone that hangeth on a tree:"

In our first point we covered that the Lord redeems those whom He loves, and in our previous point we saw that Israel looked at her experience of God redeeming their forefathers from their enemies and they got their interpretation of the Scriptures wrong. They understood that Messiah would come to redeem **them** from under the hand of their enemies. But instead God did a new work, He sent His Son to redeem Jew **and** Gentile from under the curse of the law, hence they did not see the Lord Jesus as being their Messiah. So God did a special work in one Jew that was unparalleled, in a man who was a Pharisee of a Pharisee, a man who sat under the teaching of Gamaliel, and was fervent in the law of their fathers. The Lord stood in front of him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9: 3, 4), and blinded him, then commanded him to go and preach to those of his own nation. Saul, later known as Paul, was given special gifts of healing (Acts 19: 11). Why? So that Israel would see that God was doing a **new** work and His redemption was first being offered to the Jews, but they as a nation, not only crucified the Lord of Glory, they denied the Holy One, and then rejected His apostle and the gospel of the grace of God, the gospel of Christ crucified. So Paul went with the same good news to the Gentiles (Acts 28: 27, 28).

The Lord took Paul and redeemed him from under the curse of the law, and set him free. And he offers the same to every Jew that believes today and every Gentile that calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why? "That the blessing of Abraham would come upon the Gentiles" (Gal.3: 14). Yet for the Pharisee, they felt sure that everyone that knew not the law, that appeared to reject the law of Moses, was cursed (see Jn.7: 49). However, according to Paul, all those who are under the law are under the curse of the law (Gal.3: 10).

Why? Because when God Almighty gave Israel the law He set out before them blessing for obedience, and cursing for disobedience (see Deut.29: 21). And as no one is justified by the works of the law in the sight of God (Gal.3: 11), as **all** have sinned (Rom.3: 23), then **all** are under the curse of the law, because we are **all** disobedient to the law. Even Paul who was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, did not obey all the law, hence the law was a curse to them. The only way out from the curse of the law is for a man to receive the Lord Jesus Christ who came to redeem Jew and Gentile from under the curse of the law.

Mohammed did not redeem us from under the curse of the law, neither does a man-made Buddha redeem us from under the curse of the law. And if you know a Roman Catholic then be encouraged to tell them that Christ did **not** come to redeem them from under **some** of the curses of the law, but from **all** of the curses listed in Deut.29. And if that is the case, and He did redeem us from under the curse of the whole law, then we are no longer bound by the curse or consequences of the law of Moses, we are no longer under the schoolmaster (Gal.3: 26), we are free from the law of sin and death (Rom.8: 2), but we are under the law of Christ (Rom.7: 25 & Gal.6: 2).

There are some denominations that fall into apostasy by requiring their adherents to worship on the Sabbath to be redeemed, there are others who claim we have to obey the ten commandments to be redeemed, and hence either of these become legalistic; they require the believers to obey some part of the law for salvation. It may seem a safe place to be because you can show the brethren what to do, and if they obey, they are "saved", like worshipping on the Sabbath. But when we rightly divide the word of truth, then in this the church age, we are redeemed by Christ from under the curse of the whole law. We either believe it, or we do not.

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