

Part II: Word Pictures

Lesson Eight

Ransomed and Redeemed

Introduction

We've looked at word pictures such as *death* and *birth*, the *bread of life*, and *sonship*. What truth is present in every one of those word pictures? **They all illustrate God's grace to sinners in different ways. Cf. a diamond: one beauty, that shines forth when viewed from different angles.**

Studying God's Word

The word pictures that we will look at last in this lesson are some of the oldest in Scripture. God used the history of his people to establish and illustrate the salvation of all mankind.

The roots of redemption

There are few concepts that were as firmly embedded in the social consciousness of the Israelites as that of *redemption*—and rightly so.

Read Exodus 6:6 and 13:11-16.

1. From what did God redeem the Israelites? **God redeemed them from slavery in Egypt.**
2. Recall the events of the Passover. What did the Lord use to redeem the Israelites from slavery and death? **The blood of an innocent Passover lamb.**
3. Why did the Lord tell the Israelites to redeem their firstborn? **So that they would never forget how God graciously redeemed them from slavery in Egypt at the expense of the firstborn of the Egyptians.**

Read Ruth 4:9,10,13,14.

Another development in Israel's national history further explained and expanded the idea of redemption.

4. What was the role of a "kinsman-redeemer"? **Since God promised Abraham that his descendants would occupy the land of Israel, and that a Savior would come from one of his descendants, both land ownership and family lives were very important. If a woman's husband died before providing her with a son, the closest related unmarried male relative was obligated to marry her and provide her with a son. The first son would be reckoned as the son of the deceased man and carry on his family name. Any further sons would be counted as belonging to the new husband. This was done to provide for the family name of the deceased and to help provide for the woman's physical needs. The kinsman-redeemer had to meet the following requirements: be related, be willing to take on the financial risk involved, and have the necessary resources to fulfill the obligation.**

5. How is this a picture of Christ's act of redemption? **Throughout the psalms and the prophets, God identifies himself as Israel's redeemer, bringing this arrangement to mind. Christ chose to make himself part of our family by becoming a man. (He was born as a descendant of the union between Ruth and Boaz!) He faced no small risk and danger as he became our Redeemer. He redeemed us willingly. And he had the resources he needed to redeem the world from sin and death.**
6. In ransoms and redemptions (two closely related concepts), a price is always paid. The Israelites saw this time and again throughout their history. Read Ephesians 1:7,8 and 1 Peter 1:18,19. What price did it take to redeem the souls of all people? **The holy and precious blood of Christ Jesus, the true Lamb of God**

Redeemed *from* and *for*

Reread 1 Peter 1:18,19 and read Galatians 3:13,14.

7. In these passages, *from* what two things does God say we have been redeemed? **The empty way of life handed down by our forefathers (Means what?) Without the grace that motivates willing service to God, we are slaves to serving ourselves. That is an empty way of life.**

The curse of the law. (Means what?) God's judgment in hell when we die.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Titus 2:11-14; and Romans 8:23.

8. Jesus' sacrifice set us free *from* sin and death at the price of his own blood. *For* what has God saved us? **Our lives now have a value that we use to honor God. ("Self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ) And "purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."**
9. Read Titus 2:11-14. What are some concrete ways we can honor the Lord who has redeemed us? **Be eager to do what is good. Control ourselves and live upright lives. That means saying no to the temptations of this world.**
10. According to the passage from Romans chapter 8, what ultimate goal did God have in mind in our redemption? **His goal was that we would share an eternal life in heaven with him. This is the hope to which Job referred: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God" (Job 19:25,26).**

Summary

Key Points:

- God used the history of the Israelites to establish and illustrate the truths of redemption.
- Jesus shed his holy blood to redeem us from sin and death.
- Jesus redeemed us so that we can live as his holy people here on earth.
- Jesus redeemed us so that we can live as his holy people forever in heaven.

May our hearts yearn within us as we look forward to that day!