

the
crimson
thread

OF REDEMPTION

Seeing the Cross in the Old Testament



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The Bible is a book about **redemption**. God wants to communicate this story to us through His Word. He does this by giving us many smaller stories that illustrate the wonderful truth of the redemption provided through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The central theme of redemption in Scripture is that:

**God has taken the initiative
to act compassionately
on behalf of those
who are powerless
to help themselves.**

Divine redemption includes God's _____ with humanity in its plight, and the securing of _____ of humankind through the obedience, suffering, death, and resurrection of the incarnate Son.

What does "redeem" mean?

(1) To buy or purchase. The concept is in the purchase of a slave. He is bought to be owned as property.

Christ redeemed us in this sense so that we belong to Him.

(2) To buy something **from** something **for** another purpose. Again, we are purchased by Christ from the bondage of sin for the purpose of freedom in Him.

(3) The third word carries the idea of a purchase that pays off a debt. A price that is necessary to secure the freedom of someone or something. Christ paid our sin debt.

Finding its context in the social, legal, and religious customs of the ancient world, the metaphor of redemption includes the ideas of loosing from a bond, setting free from captivity or slavery, buying back something lost or sold, exchanging something in one's possession for something possessed by another, and ransoming.

In the Old Testament, redemption involves deliverance from bondage based on the payment of a price by a redeemer.

The first verb [pada] is a legal term concerning the substitution required for the person or animal delivered. It is also used in relation to legislation with regard to the firstborn. Every firstborn male, whether human or animal, belonged to Yahweh, and hence was to be offered to Yahweh. The firstborn males of ritually clean animals were sacrificed, while firstborn unclean animals were redeemed (Exod 13:13; 34:20; Num 18:15-16).



Human firstborn were also redeemed, either by the substitution of an animal or by the payment of a fixed sum (Num 18:16). The Levites are also said to be a ransom for the firstborn of Israel (Num 3:44-45). Money was sometimes paid to deliver a person from death (Exod 21:30; Num 3:46-51; 18:16; cf. Psalm 49:7-9).

The second verb [gaal] is a legal term for the deliverance of some person, property, or right to which one had a previous claim through family relation or possession. The participle of this verb [goel] stands for the person who performed the duties of "redeemer." This term is found eighteen times in the Old Testament (13 times in Isaiah).

It was the duty of a man's redeemer, usually his next of kin, to buy back the freedom that he had lost (e.g., through debt). An example of such "redemption" is found in Leviticus 25:47-49, where an Israelite who has had to sell himself into slavery because of poverty may be redeemed by a kinsman or by himself. Property sold under similar conditions could likewise be redeemed, thus keeping it within the family (Lev 25:24-25; Ruth 4:1-6; Jer 32:6-9).

The meaning of the third verb [kaphar] is **to cover**. To cover sin, atone, or make expiation are associated meanings. It literally has the connotation of "ransom". It signifies a price paid for a life that has become forfeit (Exod 21:30 ; 30:11-16).

Yahweh is called Israel's "_____ " especially in Isaiah where "redemption" is a key metaphor. (41:14; 43:1; 44:6; 47:4). He delivers his people!

PHYSICAL DELIVERANCE

The redemptive activity of God is most often described in terms of physical deliverance, but these redemptive acts have deep spiritual significance.

- God is the creator / owner.
- God provides for man's every need.
- God kills an animal & uses the skin to cover Adam & Eve.
- God declares spiritual warfare (Gen. 3) and promises victory.
- God evicts the first couple from Eden & prevents their re-entry.
- God opens the heavens & destroys every living thing on the earth except the contents of the ark.
- God scatters all the people of the earth and divides the continents.
- God covenants with a man to choose a nation for His glory.
- God promises 400 years of slavery.
- God promises a son, gives a son, then challenges Abraham to sacrifice that son.
- God providentially moved Joseph to Egypt to

What are we learning about God through these things?

God is good. God desires relationship with man based on trust.

God moves redemptively toward man as He promises to redeem man through the seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent. He grants them an initial picture of atonement when He slays an innocent animal and covers man's guilty nakedness. God does not accept other sacrificial systems.



SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS

There is only one explicit Old Testament reference to redemption from sin:

*He himself will redeem Israel
from every kind of (all of their) sin.*

Psalm 130:8

Most OT references focus on God's deliverance from the _____ of sin.

KEY PICTURES OF REDEMPTION EARLY ON:

Adam & Eve Covered

Noah – Genesis 6-8

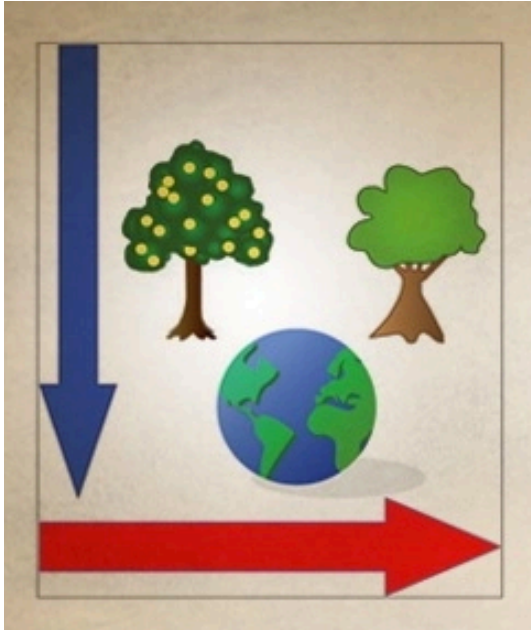
Abraham and Isaac – Genesis 22

Joseph - Genesis 37-50



Creation Era

Genesis 1:1 - 11:26
Approximately 2,500 years



First 5 Stories of the “metanarrative” (BIG STORY)

- 1) Creation
- 2) Fall
- 3) 2nd Generation
- 4) Noah
- 5) Babel

Two groups of people: those who come to God His way and those who rebel against God and devise their own way.

Patriarch Era

Genesis 11:27 - 50:26
Approximately 360 years

Chronicles the lives of Abraham; his son, Isaac; Isaac’s two sons, Esau and Jacob; Jacob’s twelve sons, his eleventh son, Joseph, in his journey to Egypt; and the family’s move to Egypt.

