

## REDEMPTION by Keith Blackwell

For those of you who like American history, if I were to mention the name Harriet Tubman, what comes to mind? Do you think of the civil war? Do you think of slavery? Or do you look at me and wonder who in the world that is?

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland somewhere around 1820, we don't know for sure because those records were not kept. In 1849, she escaped to Philadelphia where she quickly went to work arranging and leading bands of slaves escaping from their masters. T times she would work odd jobs to make the money necessary for the slaves to reach freedom. This is a fascinating story, read more about it when you get time.

What does that have to do with our talks about salvation? Simply put, we learned that we have been justified to God through the blood of Christ, now we need a means to be brought back to Him that is where redemption comes in.

The people that lived during Christ's day understood slavery very well. The nation of Israel itself was under the rule of the Roman Empire. It is estimated that over 60 million people were considered slaves at that time.

Slavery suggests that you are in bondage to a person. You have no control over your lives, you do as you are told like it or not. Jesus used this term to "shock" the people listening with the reality of sin's bondage and their need of redemption from that way of life. We find this exchange in John chapter 8, let's look at it.

**Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

**Joh 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Joh 8:33** They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

**Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

**Joh 8:35** And the servant abided not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

**Joh 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

These verses tell us plainly we are in bondage to sin. Just as the children of slaves on the southern plantations were slaves with no hope of redemption, we are born slaves to sin with no hope on our own to be redeemed

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Slavery works from the outside in. I have read articles about the merciless beatings that plantation owners gave the slaves, seen pictures, but over and over the hope of eventual freedom kept these people's spirit strong. But sometimes, their spirit would break and they were of no use to anyone or anything.

Spiritual slavery is just the opposite. It works from the inside out. Sin works to destroy us. It starts with a thought, maybe a look. Eventually the thought of it consumes us. Then we plot and scheme to achieve it, every thing we think or do revolves around that one thing, when finally we are of no good to anything else. That is why drugs and alcohol are so dangerous. After a while you only think of how you will get your next fix, it consumes you. Once again, another lesson for another day.

### THE CONCEPT OF REDEMPTION

If you wanted to purchase a slave, how would you go about it? Have you ever watched the Barret Jackson car auction? Some of those cars are beautiful; some of them go for an unbelievable amount of money. That is the same way that a slave auction would work. Masters would bid on the slaves and some could go for a high price. We need to keep this thought in mind as we talk about being redeemed from sin.

Something else we need to know is that the purchaser had three options he could choose from about the slave(s) he just bought. He could make the slave his own servant, he could resell the slave to try to make a profit, or he could set the newly purchased slave free.

Another thing to know about the concept of redemption is that in the New Testament, the word used the most for redemption is the same word as ransom. We all have seen movies where someone was kidnapped, the kidnappers would send the family a ransom note saying gives us so much money at a certain time and place or they will die. We were held in bondage by sin and someone had to pay the ransom for us, who?

**Mt 20:28** Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

### SETTING THE SLAVES FREE

The concept of a ransom helps us to understand the when Jesus redeemed us; he did so for the purpose of setting us free, not to enslave us again.

The word Jesus used in Matt 20:28 was the redemption price of a slave.

The Greek uses a word: *LUTROSIS*

Most New Testament writers put a prepositional prefix on the word making it: *APOLUTROSIS*

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This means it “super sizes” the word redemption. It means much more than just Jesus bought us from the slave market. It has the meaning that we have been redeemed in such a way that we can never be enslaved by sin again.

### PUSHING THE GOAT OVER THE CLIFF

To get a deeper meaning of the redemption legacy that we have, we have to go back to ancient Israel. As Bobby Epperson taught us, on the Day of Atonement, the day the priests would offer sacrifices for the sins of the people, there would be two goats. One was to be sacrificed, and the other was to have the sins of the people symbolically placed on it and was to be lead away into the wilderness.

**Le 16:7** And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

**Le 16:8** And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

**Le 16:9** And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

**Le 16:10** But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

**Le 16:21** And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

**Le 16:22** And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

The problem is that sometimes the goat would wander back into the camp. Have you ever done something that you knew for sure was hid and no one would ever find out? What happened? Someone that was not supposed to say a word blabbed, and you got into major trouble. The Bible teaches us that we cannot hide our sins.

**Nu 32:23** But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure **YOUR SIN WILL** find you out.

According to legend, the man responsible for leading the goat out of the camp was to lead it far away, take it to a cliff and push it off the cliff to kill it. That is a picture of complete redemption-the removal of sin so that it will never show up again.

There are many verses that talks about our sins not being remembered:

**Mic 7:18** Who is a God like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

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**Mic 7:19** He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

**Isa 38:17** Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy BACK.

These are two of my favorites.

### THE COST OF REDEMPTION

What was the price that Jesus had to pay to redeem us? Peter tells us plainly:

**1pe 1:18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**1pe 1:19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Our sin was so costly that it took the best that heaven had to buy us out of the slave market because God's judgment on sin was so severe

### Jesus had to shed His blood

Blood has always been the price for sin. It started back in the garden when God killed the animals to make the clothes for Adam and Eve. The writer of Hebrews said this:

**Heb 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission

Money won't do anything that we could offer will help. Paul tells it plainly:

**Eph 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Why blood? Who gets woozy at the sight of blood? Who has to look away when the doctor takes blood out of your arm? Why would God want blood to pay for sins? Deuteronomy 12:23 tell us that life is in the blood. The verse we read earlier in Hebrews says without the shedding of blood. This is another way of saying that the sacrifice had to die.

Jesus had to die on the cross, not just hang there for a little while. Because he died, he was able to enter the heavenly tabernacle and present His blood as the payment for sin.

**Heb 9:11** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

**Heb 9:12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

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**Heb 9:13** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

**Heb 9:14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

### JESUS HAD TO BE SINLESS

The redeemer, or the purchaser, could not be a slave himself. Whoever is going to redeem a slave must be a free person. Looking at this spiritually, our Redeemer must be sinless. Why? Because we are enslaved by our sins passed down by our common ancestors to Adam. Since God is a perfectly holy God, he will accept nothing less than a perfect payment for sin.

Ever wondered why Jesus was born of a virgin? This is the reason; sin is passed on through the father so Jesus could not have an earthly father. He had to be born without sin and lead a sinless life. The verse that we read earlier in 1 Peter 1:19 said that Jesus was a spotless and unblemished sacrifice. This refers to the sacrifices that the ancient Israelites made. The offerings had to be without spot or blemish, a picture of the coming redeemer.

### JESUS HAD TO BECOME A MAN

**Heb 10:4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

**Heb 10:5** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Animal sacrifices could only do until God's perfect sacrifice was offered. In order for Jesus to be an acceptable substitute for mankind, he had to be a man.

### THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REDEMPTION

What did Jesus accomplish when he redeemed us?

Two things, one we are freed from the curse of the law.

**Ga 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

We cannot keep the law. To be made righteous by the law means to keep it completely. We cannot do that because:

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**Jas 2:10** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

This is the first accomplishment of redemption.

**Ga 4:4** But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

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

Two, God adopted us into His family.

It's one thing to be bought off the slave market and set free. It is another thing entirely to be taken into the house and be made part of the family.

When Christ redeemed us, He brought us into the His Father's house and gave us all the rights and privileges that come with being members of God's family.

**Ga 4:6** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

**Ga 4:7** Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

## OUR RESPONSE TO REDEMPTION

Since we have been redeemed with such a great price, how should we respond to our great salvation? Three ways.

One, we should serve Christ.

**Tit 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

When someone pays an infinitely high price for you, simply because He loves you, nothing that you can do in return is too great.

If you have been redeemed from the jaws of sin and death by Jesus Christ, the best thing that you could do is serve Him.

Two, we should worship Christ. IN revelation chapter 4, we read of the 24 elders, the 4 beasts and various angelic beings all spending day and night praising God. These are perfect heavenly beings that did not need to be redeemed, how much more; us that are sinful creatures should praise Him for his wondrous act of redemption.

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Three, we should proclaim Christ. We have too many undercover Christians in the body of Christ. Someone once wrote: "Do you live your life in a way that if people around found out that you were a Christian they would be surprised?" Christ redeemed us with a great price publicly, but too many of us can't even bow our heads at a restaurant and thank him for our food. We can't speak His name for fear of what people will think. We laugh along with off color or dirty jokes because we want to fit in. But if we have been set free from the slavery of sin, and we see our friends and loved ones on the auction block of sin, we should be thankful enough for our redemption to tell them how they can be freed as well.