

LESSON 10 – THE RELENTLESS REDEEMER

PURPOSE

God is a Redeemer, always at work to advance His great purpose, and able to turn human failure and dark circumstance into opportunities for greater good. In fact, God has worked through the prophets, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and also the Church in order to demonstrate His multi-faceted wisdom. Man's tragic fall did not stop God. Therefore, we can see history as the story of God's relentless redemptive activity in restoring all things . . . it is literally 'His story'.

GLOSSARY

Redeem – to buy out of slavery; to ransom or deliver from bondage, both physically and spiritually; to bring good out of bad.

Seed – offspring or descendant; used particularly in Scripture to speak of that Descendant of woman who would defeat the serpent and produce a redeemed race (see Lesson 9).

Relentless – unstoppable, incessant, sustained, unbroken, persistent.

REDEMPTION AFTER THE FALL

Genesis 3:15

Immediately after Adam and Eve fell into sin, God's heart was for redemption. Though their sin brought a curse upon the land and a marring of their appointed roles and their descendants, God had a plan for restoration.

Genesis 3:7

He promised that a Seed of the woman would ultimately crush the serpent's head – thus the deceiver would be defeated by the Seed of the one deceived.

Genesis 3:21

Because of their sin, Adam and Eve felt shame at their nakedness and attempted to cover themselves with fig leaves. But God sacrificed animals in order to provide fur skins for adequate clothing for the fallen couple. This is also a picture of the sacrificial system which was to come, whereby the innocent suffers to provide a covering for the guilty.

Galatians 3:19–29

Ultimately, Jesus – without sin – became the sacrifice once and for all to cover the sins of humanity. Our sins are covered by His sacrifice rather than our own vain attempts at good works.

REDEMPTION AND THE FLOOD

Romans 5:14–21
Romans 6:23
Genesis 6:1–8

Because of Adam's sin, mankind received a bent toward sin. The sinful nature became a part of every descendant of Adam, causing all to sin. Within just a few generations, the sins of mankind had become so grievous that the Lord determined that He must wipe man from the

Genesis 6–9

face of the earth. But there was one man named Noah who found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

God instructed Noah to build a large ship, an ark, which would carry Noah and his family – along with at least two of every animal – safely through the coming flood ... for God would cause tremendous rain for forty days and nights.

Even in the midst of awesome and righteous judgement, God's heart was toward His redemptive purpose for mankind. He not only saved Noah's family and the animals, but He preserved the Redemptive Seed ... His promise.

REDEMPTION AND THE PATRIARCHS

Genesis 12–50

Exodus – Joshua

God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to form the family from which the Seed would come to bless all nations and peoples of the world.

Later, when the descendants of these Patriarchs were enslaved in Egypt, God called Moses, and through him formed the nation from which the Seed would come.

REDEMPTION AND ISRAEL

Judges – Chronicles

Judges 3

Isaiah – Malachi

Ezra – Esther

2 Samuel 7

Psalm 72

Psalm 78

Throughout the history of Israel, the special nation from which the Redemptive Seed would come, the people experienced great seasons of turning toward God and tragic seasons of turning toward wickedness and destruction. But God never forgot His purpose or His promise.

God raised up judges to save the people and He sent prophets to warn them. Even in the midst of suffering and defeat, He mercifully and miraculously spared a remnant of the people.

Finally, God raised up a young man named David to produce a Kingly lineage for the Seed Who would reign forever.

REDEMPTION AND JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 1:1–12

Galatians 4:4–7

John 3:16–17

Hebrews 4:15

Matthew 20:28

Colossians 2:13–15

Ultimately, we see God's Redemptive nature revealed in the Seed Himself, Jesus Christ. God sent His own Son – not the seed of man, which was corrupted by sin – Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to a young virgin named Mary. Jesus lived a sinless life, though He was tempted in every way. He died on the cross, becoming the sacrifice for our sins, and then rose again from the dead, conquering death and Satan (the serpent) and saving mankind.

Jesus now reigns, even as His Church proclaims His victory and His redemptive purpose in all of the earth. Scripture promises that all creation will be redeemed and the Kingdom will be handed back to God the Father ... the relentless Redeemer.

APPLICATION

In relation to God's eternal purpose, why are you here on earth? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–20 ... How does the knowledge of God's redemptive nature change the way you think about other people? Meditate on

the fact that God is a Redeemer by nature, and let this glorious truth strengthen your security in Him. Talk to God about your part in His redemptive purpose and begin to identify some people with whom you can share His redemption.

CONCLUSION

Our knowledge of God's redemptive nature will cause us to love Him even more, and to trust Him to complete our salvation. Understanding His redemptive purpose will help you to face every situation with faith and hope, and motivate you to seek your place of service in that purpose. In His purpose, we discover our destiny, seeking to make His redemption known to everyone, that they, too, might be redeemed.