



Redemption Through the Scriptures

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#1 The Plan of Redemption

Ever wonder why Jesus had to die to bring salvation? By exploring the meaning and use of the word 'redemption,' the complexity and importance of the salvation plan become a powerful force in our lives.

* A Survey of the Course on Redemption

The theme of salvation runs throughout the Bible, revealing God's plan for eternal life to help His people build a closer relationship with the Lord and play their part in God's larger plan.

5 Stages of God's Plan

(1) Garden (2) _____ (3) OT (4) Restored (5) Best
Wonderful

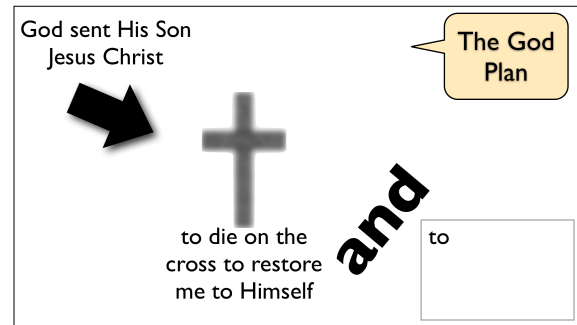
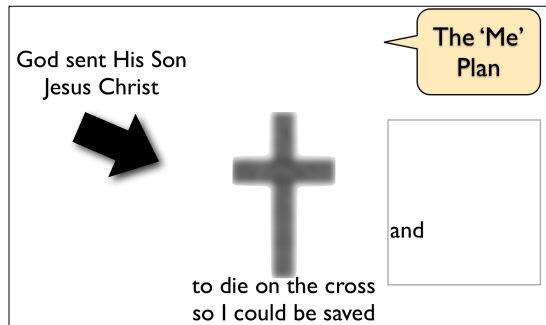
(1) The _____ (2) The _____ (3) The _____
(#1-5) "I want it!" (#6-10) "I paid for it!" (#11-14) "I'll enjoy it!"

• Survey of Redemption (#15-16)

* The 'Me' plan versus the 'God' plan

♦ Me Plan: "God saved me so I could _____."

♦ God Plan: "God saved me to restore me to Himself and help me _____."



The global church struggles greatly because of the adoption of the "Me" plan instead of the "God" plan. This incomplete vision hampers God's people and prevents them from reaching where they should be in Christ.

"The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel." — [John Piper, God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/25423.John_Piper)¹

* God's eternal plan (Acts 26:22-23)

God's eternal redemption plan slowly unfolds through thousands of years of Bible history.

"And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:22-23).

- God's plan was revealed both in the _____ and _____.
- God's plan centered on Christ's suffering (i.e. death), _____ from the dead and proclamation of the gospel to all peoples around the world.

¹ http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/25423.John_Piper

* The Meaning of Redemption

- Not commonly used
- Greek meaning: With each definition, there was both an agreed upon exchange and transfer.
"(1) By payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off." (2) "To buy up, to buy up for one's self, for one's use."— Thayer's Greek Dictionary
- God is compared to a customer exchanging something for an agreed-upon price. This is where the puzzle starts. Why does God need to buy anything? What does He gain from His purchase? What is the purchase price? Why?



* God's Authority over Man (Genesis 2:15-17)

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die' (Gen 2:15-17).

- God was in authority over man due to creation (Gen 1:26-27).
- The Lord God "_____ the man." This reflects His authority.
- The Lord also warned man about the consequences of disobedience.

* The Necessity of Redemption (John 8:31-44).

Jesus clarifies all of this in John 8.

(1) A slave to sin: "Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever' (John 8:34-35).

- Those who _____ sin are a "_____ of sin" (8:34).

(2) A slave to the devil: "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth..." (John 8:44).

- Those who sin have a father whose name is _____.
- The sonship is obvious because they _____ their father, the devil.
- The Lord importantly identifies the other key character to this plot. The serpent (Gen 3:1) is the same as the devil. "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world..." (Re 12:9).

"Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free' (John 8:31-32).

Jesus promised His disciples that the faith they had in Him (notice "who had believed Him") would lead to obedience as the key to their success. "If you abide in My word" contrasts with listening to the words of the evil one. Jesus guides us to the truth, and the truth leads us back to obedience. There, the slave finds freedom. It is not a freedom to do whatever a person wants but a freedom to be and do all that God designed him or her for.

* The Purchase Payment (Colossians 1:13-14)

*"For He delivered us from the domain (lit. authority) of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).*

- The purchase was needed because man became under the "_____ of _____," the slave to another owner.
- The two verbs, _____ and transferred speak about the recovery of God's people to Himself.
- The church, those purchased are called "the _____ of His beloved _____" (Col 1:13).
- The "in whom" refers to _____ through whom redemption is secured.
- The redemptive price needs to bring about "_____ of sins" (Col 1:14) to be complete.

Conclusion

The purchase of our salvation by Christ's death on the cross for our sins becomes that turning point that restores us to our original position before God. It is in Christ that we find freedom to belong to and serve God. Just as God redeemed us from Satan's power, so we call others back to God through Christ's work on the cross.

Reflection questions:

- Share about something special that you wanted, bought, and the price you paid for it.
- In light of what we know here, is it good to accept the plurality of religions? Aren't there many ways to God? Why or why not?