



Redemption Through the Scriptures

Oakland International Fellowship

Paul J. Bucknell

#4 The Scope of Redemption

The Scope of Redemption shows that God all along had in mind having a great number of people fellowshiping and cooperating with Him. This is the great family of God comprised of people from the various cultures spread across time and the globe called the church.

* God's Family Plan

"And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth' (Genesis 1:26-28). (NASB here and elsewhere)"

- "Be _____ and _____, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over..."
"And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it" (Genesis 6:5-7).
- "Populate the earth abundantly and _____ in it."
- **A redemptive plan means God can work with what is already present and somehow make things aright.**

* Noah & Tower of Babel (Genesis 6-11,12)

God said, "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech" (Genesis 11:7).

Why didn't God start completely over? Here are four reasons for separating the people through foreign languages.

- Man would not so quickly unite to do _____ (Genesis 11:6).
- God's wrath would not be so quickly provoked thus giving more time to work (Genesis 11:5).
- Man would disperse out over the earth (Genesis 11:8).
- Man would be isolated from each other and thus be protected through culture and language from the wickedness of others.

* Abraham listened! (Genesis 17:4-6)

In contrast to Adam and Eve, Abraham listened and obeyed. He was enticed by God's generous offer.

"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 "And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you" (Genesis 17:4-6).

- "As for Me, behold, My _____ is with you"

* Abraham believed! (Genesis 22:16-18)

Yahweh offers greater blessings to Abraham after expressing his willingness to offer up His only son Isaac.

"Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17-18).

- Blessing comes "because you have _____ voice" (Genesis 22:18).
- Big scope: it will affect "_____ the nations."
- "_____ will bless you, and _____ will greatly multiply your _____." God will implement this plan.

* Promised seed in Christ (Genesis 3:15)

The first hint of the redemptive plan is found here. God didn't completely destroy the human race but committed His forces to implement His work.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise him on the heel" (Genesis 3:15).

- Proto-gospel: "Between your _____ and her _____; He shall bruise you on the _____ and you shall bruise him on the heel."

Satan will cause great distress to the Promised Savior, Jesus, but Jesus will crush Satan's power.

* Interpreting the Seed (Galatians 3:16-18)

Yahweh here offers greater blessings to Abraham after expressing his willingness to offer up His only son Isaac.

"Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ. 17 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise" (Galatians 3:16-18).

- God's promises were to be carried out to "your _____ not to _____."
- "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed" (Gal 3:16).
- "And to your seed," that is, Christ. "In Christ" used _____ times.
- "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11)

* The tension: Abraham and His seed

This, however, has two meanings:

- ➔ (1) The nation of Israel as the people of God: _____ descendants
- ➔ (2) Israel as the people of God: _____ descendants

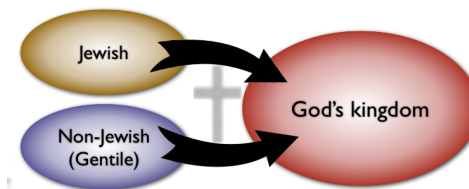
Question: How do you get to belong to the people of God?

Answer: "Unless one is _____ he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

* A Blessing to all the nations

A description to the progress of this blessing reaching both Jews and Gentiles.

- ➔ Acts 2 Reaching the _____
- ➔ Acts 8 Reaching the _____
- ➔ Acts 10 Reaching the _____
- ➔ Acts 13 Reaching the _____
- ➔ Unreached peoples & missions



The great mission is undeniably linked to God's unfolding redemption plan!

* The Big scope (Revelations 5:9-14)

Genesis looks forward; Revelation helps us get the heavenly picture!

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 'And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.' ... 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.' 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.'" (Revelation 5:5-14).*

- "For Thou wast slain, and didst _____ for God with Thy blood" (5:9)
- "From every _____ and _____ and _____ and _____" (5:9). (cf. Tower of Babel)

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God's glory. – John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad

Conclusion

- ➔ God always wanted a great number of people closely enjoying His fellowship and working along with Him. His redemptive plan wonderfully, though mysteriously at times, fully implements this plan.

Reflection questions:

- 1) Why didn't God just start anew when He destroyed the world by the flood? Wasn't the same problem going to happen?
- 2) From what Scripture passage(s) does the notion of missions in the church derive from? Why does Piper say it is "temporary necessity"?