

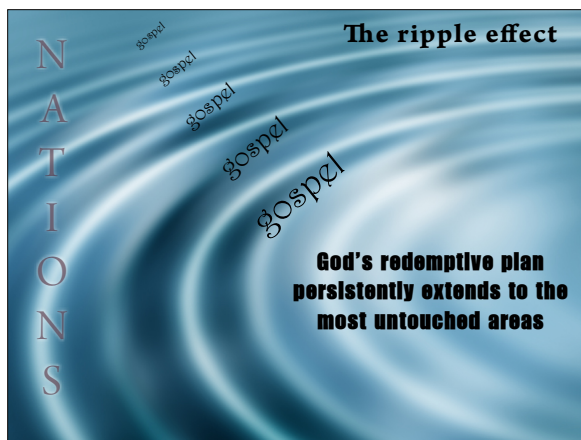
Redemption Through the Scriptures

Gaining a Clearer Picture of Christ and His Saving

#4 The Scope of Redemption

Paul J. Bucknell

The Process of Redemption



Progress of Redemption

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" (Gen 1:26-28)

- "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over..."

The flood

- And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." (Gen 9:7).

"But why? Is God ignorant of man's tendency to wickedness?"

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth"

Progress
of
Redemption

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).

4 reasons:

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

A redemptive plan means God can work with what is already present and somehow make things aright.



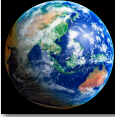

Progress
of
Redemption

Abraham listened! (Genesis 12, 17:4-6)

- In contrast to Adam and Eve, Abraham listened and obeyed. He was enticed by God's generous offer (Gen 12).

"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 covenant is with you."



Covenant with Noah
mankind



Covenant with Abram
family

Progress
of
Redemption

Abraham believed! (Genesis 22:16-18)

"17 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 22:16-18).

- Blessing comes "because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:18).
- Big scope: it will affect "all the nations."
- "I will bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed..."

Proto-Gospel

"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).



Progress
of
Redemption

Interpreting the Seed (Galatians 3:16-18)

"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 seed not to seeds."
- "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed" (Gal 3:16).
- "And to your seed," that is, Christ. "In Christ" used 88 times.



Progress
of
Redemption

The tension: Abraham and His seed

Two meanings:

(1) The nation of Israel as the people of God: physical descendants

(2) Israel's seed as the people of God: spiritual descendants

Question:
How does one get to belong to the people of God?

Answer:
"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Progress
of
Redemption

Acts & unfolding redemption plan

Spreads out to include both Jew and Gentile

- A Blessing to all the nations including both Jews & Gentiles
- Acts 2 Reaching the Devout or God-fearers
- Acts 8 Reaching the Samaritans
- Acts 10 Reaching the Gentiles (non-Jews)
- Acts 13 Reaching the Unreached
- Unreached peoples & missions

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

Progress
of
Redemption

The Big scope (Revelations 5:9-14)

"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 purchase for God with Thy blood" (5:9)
- "From every tribe and tongue and people and nation " (5:9). (cf. Tower of Babel)

Progress
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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. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!" (Ps 97:1). "Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" (Ps 67:3-4).

Missions begins and ends in worship.

– John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad

Progress
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Discussion questions

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



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