

Redemption Through the Scriptures

*Gaining a Clearer Picture
of Christ and His Saving*

Delight in Joint Service #11

NASB used

Paul J. Bucknell

Redemption Through the Scriptures

**The
Program**

**The
Purchase**

**The
Pleasure**



"I want that!"

"I'll pay for that!"

"I'll enjoy that!"

His word

God
His people

His work

Redemption
Through the
Scriptures

Insight into God's Original Plan (Gen 1:27-28)

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 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 1:27-28).

- Original purpose: He appoints them to their work.
- Creating mankind after His own image importantly allowed a form of communication and relationship that enriches the work man would do.
- Man uses his own creativity to fulfill God's purposes

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it" (Gen 2:15).

- Work placement
- Special assignment: carefully care for the special garden that God had created.
- Meaning of Eden is **pleasure** which is a root for the English word **hedonism**.
- Man's participation in God's work completely changed with the **fall**
Man was no longer willing or able to carry out God's work. Redemption required a complete reversal of this to retain God's original purposes for the human race.

Redemption
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God's people rule with Him

- ➡ Noah, the man who built the **ark**.
- ➡ Abraham, the man who became the **father** of a people of faith.
- ➡ Joseph, the man through who God secluded and greatly increased Israel from a family to a **nation**.
- ➡ Moses, the friend of God who led God's people out of Egypt.

God accompanies His people as they fulfill His grand works!

Redemption
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The Team: God and Joshua

"Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" (Joshua 5:13-14).

- The Lord was with Joshua in the difficulties of accomplishing his assigned **work**.
- The Lord **appeared** as was necessary to give faith and hope.
- In difficult times we are much more willing to accept the Lord's help and learn to appreciate His help.
- God's help differs for our varying situations but always wants to cultivate our relationship with Him.
- Serving the Lord always has these two components: the Lord wants to work with us and to reveal His ways to us.

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God's Desire to Bring Restoration (2 Chr 7:12-14)

"Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:12-14).

- God works in the same ways with His people in OT and NT times.
- The Lord allows His people to **wander** from Him in disobedience and experience all sorts of bad things.
- He waits to hear the prayer of His people along with their confession.
- The Lord will restore them so that He can again **work** with and through them.

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God's people are a light to the nations (Isaiah 42:5-7)

"Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison" (Isaiah 42:5-7).

As a light to the nations

- Because of the fall, the work God has for His people broadens out from subduing the earth to bringing His **light**.
- His kingdom is defined by those who live out His ways.
- The Israelites were too proud and hardened to carry out this important aspect of God's work (e.g. Jonah).

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Jesus and the World (Mat 5:13-16)

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? ... You are the light of the world. ... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

- Jesus is the light (John 1:4) but declares His people to be the light and salt.
- The light and salt stand for the holy character and ways of the Lord.
- The Lord is present but steps back and allows His people carry out the changes that occur when His people live out His life.
- Our works are to bring glory to God as these good works shine before men.

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Different intensities

A.D.	33	100
	200	600
	400	900
	600	1,900
	800	1,200
	1000	900
	1200	2,800
	1400	4,100
	1600	8,700
	1700	14,200
	1800	17,500
	1900	21,700
	1995	191,200
	2000	210,000
	2025	300,000

Number of cross cultural missionaries

Jesus is with us to the end of the age as Yahweh was with Joshua (Mat 28:20).

Reformation

Modern Missions

Progress
of
Redemption

“God created us for this: to live our lives in a way that makes him look more like the greatness and the beauty and the infinite worth that he really is. This is what it means to be created in the image of God.” — John Piper

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Revelation and the Kingdom of God (Revelation 1:6)

“He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10).

- King Adam failed; King Jesus succeeded. Jesus has made His people a **kingdom** and to rule with Him.
- The Messiah is the **King** — **priest** after the order of Melchizedek. We, however, are the princes and priests.
- It is incomprehensible that He would share all this authority and work in our hands—those that once denied Him. Besides, He could do it so much better.
- The kingdom of God is a spiritual rule and yet will transfer into a full political one upon Christ’s return and the recreation of the heaven and earth.

Redemption
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Redemption process

Grand creation

Fill, subdue, rule

Restoration

Now
Spiritual+ realm

Eternity
Complete realm

~ One purpose of God's restoration of human beings to Himself is to have them work along His side to complete His works and so to personally enjoy God's glory and testify of His goodness to others.

Progress
of
Redemption

Discussion questions

- ★ Use two words to describe your work (whether student, housewife, corporate, ministry, etc.).
- ★ How does the world understand work different from the way God wants His people to think of it?
- ★ Why does God work through our lives when He could do such a better and quicker job?

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