

The Story of Redemption

The definition of redemption is: ***“the act of atoning for guilt, a fault, or a mistake, or state of being atoned; an act of being restored; deliverance from sin”***.

The theme of the whole Bible is the redemption of mankind from death that sin brings and the restoration that resurrection brings. The Bible teaches about restored spiritual life and restored fellowship in the presence of God. The Bible is the completed story of God’s plan of bringing salvation, redemption, and recovery to mankind.

The Bible is NOT a history of planet Earth or its destruction. It is the inspired written account of God’s desire to have His creation, through the freewill of choice, live with Him forever. **(Romans 6:23)**

The Bible is a spiritual story about the introduction of sin and death by sin and the final triumph over death through the fulfilled promise of God. **(1 John 2:25, Galatians 3:22,29)**

From the beginning of the story of redemption, there has been a specific set of characters; these were people of a covenant connection with God. The Bible unfolds the story from the beginning of their selection by God and on through history until the ***“desire of all nations shall come”***. **(Haggai 2:7)**

Jesus Christ, the Savior of all humanity was brought into the world through these covenant-connected chosen people. Through time and events recorded in the Scriptures, we see the unfolding story of redemption being revealed.

It was through covenant-connected people that the world was to learn about the one True God. **(Deuteronomy 6:4)** The nations saw His power as they watched Him deliver His enslaved people from Egyptian bondage and give them their own land.

They learned of His jealousy and His refusal to share honor with other gods. They came to understand that sin must be atoned for by blood. **(Leviticus 17:11)**

Then finally through the bloodlines of these people, the world was given its savior. **(Luke 2:11)** This theme of the Bible includes the story of the covenant between God and the chosen people from Mt. Sinai until the Gospel of Jesus Christ came in AD 30.

This relationship started out well in the beginning but became unfaithful with times of outright rebellion against God. They were His “**covenant people**”, but His covenant had conditions. **(Exodus 19:5-6, Leviticus 26:3-4,11-12,14-17)** If they continued to break His covenant, He would have no choice but to dissolve that union. **(Isaiah 24:5)**

God sent His only begotten son to reveal the promised salvation. **(John 3:16, 2 Timothy 1:10)** It was in the year AD 33 that Jesus was rejected and killed by the religious rulers of Israel.

The Book of Revelation tells us about the end of God’s relationship with Old Covenant Israel, Jerusalem, her temple, the covenant people, and about the beginning of His relationship with the New Jerusalem and its people.

The Bible illustrates God’s way of telling us about things that are spiritual and invisible by using physical types and shadows to help us understand spiritual truths. **(2 Corinthians 4:18)**

Jesus taught many parables using common everyday life subjects in earthly stories to express heavenly meanings. He conveyed spiritual realities in physical terms.

In **Mathews 13:15**, the Scripture says this. In Jesus’ day, it was the Pharisees who could not see with their eyes or hear with their ears nor understand with their hearts. For us to know the great blessings God has given to us in the heavenly places in Christ, we must open our spiritual eyes, ears, and hearts. **(Ephesians 1:3)**

It is the Book of Numbers that records a 40-year period of wandering in the wilderness before entering into the promised Land of Canaan. **(Numbers 32:10-14)**

The Book of Revelation tells of the end of another 40-year period **(AD 30- AD 70)** and places the new people of God in their new promised land. It speaks of a new heaven and earth with its New Jerusalem, the spiritual city in which God dwells. **(Revelation 21:1-3, Hebrews 12:22-23)**

In the beginning of the Bible, the book of Genesis introduces death, (spiritual death and separation from God). At the end of the Bible, the Book of Revelation records how death is conquered and cast into a lake of fire. **(Revelation 20:14)**

Resurrection and eternal life have made death obsolete. **(2 Timothy 1:10)** The Book of Revelation is the climax to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and all other Hebrew Scriptures.

In order to fully understand the Book of Revelation, one must understand how the return of Christ fulfills all written prophecy. **(Luke 21:22)** The return of Jesus Christ marked the coming judgment of God against the Nation of Israel in the year AD 70 of the first century **(John 9:39)**, the resurrection of the dead **(John 5:28-29)**, the end of the “world” or more accurately “age” **(1 Corinthians 10:11)**, and the arrival of the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. **(Hebrews 8:8,13)**

In this New Covenant, being a child of Abraham has nothing to do with a person’s genes or ancestry but has everything to do with a person’s faith and obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **(John 3:3,5,7, Acts 2:37-39,41)**

Remember, what a person believes affects the way he lives and the end result of his life. For this very reason, we must seek to know the truth of the Word of God.

Conclusion

The Old Covenant believers were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. **(Hebrews 11:39-40)** Since AD 70, we have received all of the promises. When Jesus returned the second time without sin, fulfilling the Old Covenant high priest typology, our salvation was completed. **(Hebrews 9:28)**

In **Luke 21:28**, Jesus told the disciples when they saw the end time events of their generation coming to pass, to lift up their heads because their redemption was drawing nigh.

Our hope has been realized and our faith made strong. The story of redemption was completed. **(Psalms 107:1-2)**

The last enemy, death, has been defeated! (**1 Corinthians 15:26**) Our story of redemption has been completed. Now, it is up to us to choose to believe and obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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