

Followers of the Way

From Genesis to Revelation – the unfolding story of redemption, 15-05-22

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Revelation 5:1-9

Intro:

- 1) Illus: Several years ago we heard a lot about the terrible things that had been happening in the African nation of Sudan: the raping, pillaging, persecution and killing of Christians and many other people.
 - a) There were many stories of women and children who were captured and sold into slavery and the subsequent brutality of that existence.
 - b) In the midst of the terrible things that were happening in Sudan, a lady by the name of Baroness Caroline Cox, who was at that time the UK's deputy speaker of the House of Lords, raised thousands of pounds in order to buy back the freedom of some of the women and children who had been enslaved.
 - i) She went to Sudan and put her own life at risk by negotiating with those who had enslaved women and children in order to buy back their freedom.
 - ii) Whether or not we agree with what Baroness Cox did—whether or not what she did ended up encouraging more enslavement so the captors could get paid redemption money—is not the important point of this story. For what Baroness Cox did illustrates the fact that redemption is about buying back someone's freedom who has been enslaved and is in bondage to their captor.
- 2) The message of God's Word declares that we have become enslaved by sin, which leads to the ultimate consequences of death and hell.
 - a) But the Good News of the Gospel is that there is a redeemer, Jesus Christ!
 - b) God's Word in Ephesians 1:7-8 declares: *"In him [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us . . ."*
 - c) Jesus Christ has paid the price that is necessary in order to free us from being enslaved to sin and to its ultimate consequences of death and hell.
 - d) That's what happened on the Cross over 2,000 years ago the day that we call Good Friday.
 - i) And why was it "Good"?
 - ii) Because what happened on the Cross paid the price for our redemption!
 - iii) And that's why the message of the Gospel is Good News!
- 3) But to fully grasp what Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross, we need to fully understand two important things about redemption:
 - a) We need to fully understand why we need to be redeemed
 - b) We need to fully understand how what happened on the Cross redeems us

I. We Need To Understand Why We Need To Be Redeemed

- 1) When Adam was created, God gave him and his offspring the "Title Deed of the World."
 - a) A "title deed" is a legal document of ownership.
 - b) We read in Genesis 1:26: *" . . . God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"*
 - c) So Adam and all his offspring were given the "Title Deed" of this world which gave them the right of ownership to "rule over" or to have "dominion over" this world.
- 2) But when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and to instead listen and to obey Satan or the devil, the "Title Deed of the World" was lost into Satan's hands.

- a) We find proof of this when Jesus was tempted by Satan at the beginning of His ministry. We read in Matthew 4:8-9: “. . . the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’”
- b) So “the devil” now had the right of ownership to “rule over” this world.
- c) Why did Adam and Eve lose the “Title Deed of the World” into Satan’s hands?
- i) God’s law states that we become slaves to the one whom we choose to obey:
Romans 6:16: *“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”*
 - ii) And Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and to obey Satan when they yielded to the devil’s temptation to “eat from the tree of the the knowledge of good and evil” in the Garden of Eden.
 - iii) So in becoming slaves of Satan, all their property—the “Title Deed of the World” with their right of ownership to “rule over” or to have “dominion over” this world—became Satan’s as well!
- 3) But in the Old Testament, we find that God’s law stated that when any property was lost or sold, a copy of the original title deed, which consisted of a scroll that was rolled up and sealed, was placed in the temple for safe keeping.
- a) The conditions of use that were attached to that piece of property were written on a scroll and became a legal document, or title deed.
 - i) Eg: The original 1893 title deed of this church property states the conditions of use—that a only a church with certain kind of doctrinal beliefs has the right of use of this property.
 - aa) MPCC does not own this property.
 - bb) The London Baptist Property Board are the Holding Trustees who have the original 1893 title deed to this property in their possession.
 - ii) As the conditions of use were written on the scroll—on the “Title Deed of the World”—it was rolled up and sealed with wax and stamped with the seal of the original owner. And then the next set of conditions of use were written down and then it was rolled up and sealed again.
 - iii) When Adam and Eve lost the “Title Deed of the World” into Satan’s hands, the conditions by which the world was supposed to be ruled or governed were written down on that scroll. Illus: The conditions written on the scroll:
 - aa) The world was to be ruled over with righteousness and justice.
 - bb) The world was to be ruled over in love and in peace.
 - cc) The world was to be ruled over without prejudice.
 - b) But the law also stated that the original owners or their nearest relative had the right to buy back or to redeem the property that had been lost or sold. We read in Leviticus 25:25: *“If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.”*
 - i) On the outside of the sealed up scroll, the necessary price that was required in order to buy back or to redeem that property was written down.
 - ii) Since the “Title Deed of the World” was lost through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, it could only be bought back or redeemed by paying the price or making compensation or atonement for that sinful disobedience!
 - iii) And God declared that the price or compensation or atonement for sinful disobedience could only be paid through a sacrifice of blood.
 - iv) God’s Word in Leviticus 17:11 declares: *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”*
 - v) So the requirement for the redemption of the “Title Deed of the World” that had been lost into the devil’s hands as a consequence of Adam’s and Eve’s disobedience was this—Hebrews 9:22 declares: *“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*
 - vi) Illus: A scroll: The “Price of Redemption for the Title Deed of the World” was “Compensation or Atonement must be made for disobedience through a sacrifice of blood”
 - c) When Adam and Eve lost the “Title Deed of the World” into the hands of Satan, the Lord put a sealed copy of it in His heavenly temple for safe keeping.
 - d) When any property was lost or sold, a copy of the original title deed was placed in the temple for safe keeping but an unsealed copy of the scroll was available for anyone to see and examine the conditions of use connected to the property.
 - e) Eg: We have an example of this in the Book of Jeremiah, when the Prophet Jeremiah bought back or redeemed a piece of property: Jeremiah 32:8-14
- 4) So to fully grasp what Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross, we need to fully understand why we need to be redeemed. But we also need to fully understand how what happened on the Cross redeems us.

II. We Need To Understand How What Happened On The Cross Redeems Us

- 1) The person who met the requirements to open the sealed copy of the scroll of the “Title Deed of the World” that had been lost into Satan’s hands by Adam and Eve would be able to buy it back or to redeem it.
 - a) But the real challenge was this: “How could the “Title Deed of the World” be bought back or redeemed since all of mankind were now slaves of Satan?”
 - b) This was the question that was asked in Revelation 5:2 where we see a picture of the scroll of the “Title Deed of the World.” And the answer to this question enables us to further understand the whole story of redemption that the Bible tells us from the third chapter of Genesis until the end of the Book of Revelation.
 - c) We read: Revelation 5:1-2
- 2) To buy back or to redeem property, according to God’s Law, there were certain rules that had to be followed.
 - a) Certain qualifications had to be met:
 - i) First of all, you had to either be the original property owner or the nearest relative or kinsman.
 - ii) Secondly, you had to be able act in redeeming the property.
 - iii) And thirdly, you had to be willing to pay the price of redemption.
 - b) If the nearest relative or kinsman of the original property owner met all of these qualifications, they could approach the present owner of the property about buying it back or redeeming it.
 - i) The present owner, by Law, had to cooperate in allowing the property to be bought back or redeemed by the nearest relative or kinsman of the original property owner.
 - ii) Then the person who redeemed the property, who was called the Kinsman-Redeemer, went to the temple archives and took the scroll or title deed and began to open its seals, making sure that the conditions which were written on the scroll were the same as those that had been written the unsealed copy and that those conditions were being met.
 - c) And in accordance to God’s law, when a title deed was bought back or redeemed, everything connected with that property was redeemed as well!
 - i) Eg: In the Book of Ruth, we find that Boaz, who was a blood relative of Elimelech who had died, bought back or redeemed Elimelech’s property.
 - ii) But because Ruth was connected with Elimelech’s property—being Elimelech’s daughter-in-law—when Boaz redeemed Elimelech’s property, he also got Ruth along with the property. We read: Ruth 4:1-6
 - iii) The first eligible relative in the blood line who could redeem the property chose not to do so. But then Boaz chose to redeem Elimelech’s property not because he wanted the property, but because he wanted what was connected with Elimelech’s property—Ruth, who Boaz loved!
 - d) In buying back or redeeming the “Title Deed of the World” with the right of ownership to “rule over” or to have “dominion over” this world, it was therefore important to find a kinsman-redeemer who loved mankind since in redeeming the “Title Deed of the World” the kinsman-redeemer would also redeem what was connected to that property, which was all of mankind.
- 3) So who could buy back or redeem the “Title Deed of the World?”
 - a) In the vision that the Apostle John was given, we read in Revelation 5 where someone was found who was “able to open the scroll and its seven seals”
 - i) Revelation 5:2-5
 - ii) “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” is Jesus Christ!
 - b) Jesus Christ met all the qualifications that were necessary to redeem the scroll:
 - i) First of all, Jesus Christ was the nearest relative or kinsman of mankind because even though He was fully divine, He was born of the virgin Mary and was fully human and was therefore mankind’s kinsman.
 - ii) Secondly, Jesus Christ was able to act on our behalf. He started a new genealogical line of those who are “born of the Spirit” since He was conceived by the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary.
 - aa) And since He was not a direct descendant of Adam, Jesus Christ did not inherit Adam’s sinful nature and come under Satan’s ownership as part of the property that was connected to the “Title Deed of the World.”
 - bb) And even though Jesus Christ was tempted in every way just as we are, He did not commit any sin up to the time that He went to the Cross. So He never became a slave of Satan through disobedience to God.
 - iii) And thirdly, Jesus Christ was willing to pay the price in order to buy back or to redeem the “Title Deed of the World”.
 - aa) That price of redemption was the sacrifice of His own blood, which was a holy sacrifice, that would make compensation or atonement for mankind’s sinful disobedience to God.
 - bb) The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 1:18-19: “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

c) And in buying back or redeeming the “Title Deed of the Word,” Jesus Christ got everything connected with that property-- all of mankind, including you and me.

We read: Revelation 5:6-9

d) And like Boaz’s real motive for redeeming Elimelech’s property was because of his love for Ruth, so Jesus Christ’s real motive in paying the price for redeeming the “Title Deed to the World” was because of His love for you and for me:

i) *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”* John 3:16

ii) *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8

4) And that’s why the message of the Gospel is Good News. There is a redeemer and His name is Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

1) Because of Jesus Christ’s willingness to pay the price of redemption, Satan has lost the right of ownership to “rule over” or to have “dominion over” this world.

a) Satan now rules this world by deception, deceiving people into believing that this world belongs to him and that He is ruler and has dominion over this world.

b) But the worse thing about Satan’s deception is how he blinds the eyes and the minds of people to the truth that they can legally be set free from their bondage to Satan through Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer!

2) One of these days soon, the sealed copy of the scroll of the “Title Deed of the World” which is kept in the heavenly temple will be opened!

a) Its seven seals will be broken and it will be proven beyond any doubt that the conditions by which this world was to be ruled or governed have not been kept!

i) Eg: This world has not been ruled or governed with righteousness and justice!

ii) Eg: This world has not been ruled or governed in love and in peace.

iii) Eg: This world has not been ruled or governed without prejudice.

b) And because God is a God of perfect righteousness and justice, He must one day pour out his wrath on all unrighteousness and injustice as the seven seals of the scroll are opened—which we see starting to take place in Revelation 6:1— because the conditions by which this world was to be ruled or governed have not been kept:

i) Revelation 6:1

ii) Revelation 6:9-10

3) So why has Jesus Christ, after buying back or redeeming the “Title Deed of the World” and all of mankind who were connected to that property, delayed the opening the seven seals of the scroll for the past 2,000 + years?

a) Jesus Christ’s purpose His delay in opening the seven seals is because of His desire that as many descendants of Adam—of mankind—as possible will have their eyes opened to the truth that they can legally be set from the bondage to Satan if they will but humbly repent or turn from going their own selfish way and choose to believe and accept the Lord’s forgiveness for sin that was made possible through His redeeming sacrifice on the Cross.

b) Jesus Christ wants as many descendants of Adam—of mankind—as possible to know that they have been redeemed by the sacrifice of His blood on the Cross and that they can know freedom from being enslaved to sin, death, and hell.

c) God’s Word assures us in 2 Peter 3:9: *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

d) Jesus Christ has paid the price to redeem us and to buy back our freedom from sin, death, and hell, but it is up to us to humbly repent and to turn from going our own selfish way and to believe the Good News that Jesus Christ has become our Kinsman-Redeemer.

e) If we reject what Jesus Christ has done for us through His redeeming grace, we will continue to be in bondage to Satan’s power and enslaved to sin and we will perish when God pours out His wrath upon all sin, unrighteousness and injustice.

4) Have you come to know Jesus Christ as your Redeemer because of your faith in the price that He has paid to set you free from being in bondage to Satan’s power and being enslaved to sin, death, and hell?

a) God’s Word declares in Ephesians 1:7-8: *“In him [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us . . .”*

b) And John 3:16 assures us: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

c) Song: *“There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. Thank You, O my Father, For giving us Your Son, And leaving Your Spirit—Till the work on earth is done.”*