



# Redemption Through the Scriptures

## The Proclamation of Redemption

God speaks of His redeeming work in a multitude of ways; in a word of truth, a word of encouragement, a word of warning, or as a word of wise guidance. Repeatedly, God called and commanded His children to embrace His work of redemption. Every word given to His children reveals either who God is or what He has determined for His creation. In simple fact, the proclamation of His word is an essential part of God's redemptive plan.

Down through the ages, God has \_\_\_\_\_ His purpose of redemption by means of His Word, preserved for us in the Old and New Testaments. Like a growing illumination of light, God's redemptive purpose finds its complete fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 1:1) & the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 8:12).

God's Word and spiritual life are intimately inter-related:

***"... man shall not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out the mouth of the Lord."***  
(Deut. 8:3)

Jesus employed this principle when he spoke this O.T. quote to counter evil temptation in the desert.

Actually, God's word always accomplishes what He intends.

***"... so shall My word be which goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."***  
(Isaiah 55:11)

## CREATION / FALL / REDEMPTION

To gain perspective on the 'Proclamation of Redemption', we must consider God's creative work at the beginning. By the power of His spoken word God brought life to be as we know it. We are told that God simply spoke life into existence. ***"Let there be light and there was light"*** (Gen. 1:3). From that time on, He has spoken in many ways, but the most significant proclamation comes as the 'Word' that became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

***"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."*** (John 1:1-4) (compare this to Col. 1:13-20 where it is put in a context of redemption)

***"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."*** (Heb. 1:1-2)

In full humiliation as 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity, God identified himself with us as the 'Word' made flesh -- Immanuel. About the Son, the writer of Hebrews claims that He ***"upholds all things by the word of His power."*** (Heb. 1:3) This hints of how God works in a \_\_\_\_\_ of life moment by moment. God marvelously fulfills His glorious plan of redemption in the life, death and resurrection of the Son, Jesus Christ. This redemptive purpose will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ all of His creation from the bondage incurred by human sin, revealing the glory of His adopted children in the kingdom of God. (Rom. 8:19-21)

In one act of eternal glory, God's gracious kindness to His children restored us to right relationship. As He redeems those lost, He is bringing a portion of humanity into an even \_\_\_\_\_ than Adam's original, ideal condition before the fall. And as God sanctifies and perfects His majestic image within His chosen people, this transforming work of the Spirit occurs in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the proclamation of His Word.

You will remember that initially God commissioned Adam and Eve to fulfill a God-ordained purpose to ***"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over ..... every living thing that moves on the earth which has life."***

Once the created relationship had been torn apart through Adam's disobedience, God spoke words of consequence and

warning to the Serpent, to Eve and then finally to Adam. Included in those words was a brief reference of His intention to redeem humanity from the fall. We catch a glimpse of this in God's cryptic words to the serpent:

***"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he (the seed of the woman) shall bruise you on the head, and you (serpent) shall bruise him on the heel."***  
(Gen. 3:15)

Another early hint of God's redemptive work is found in God's gracious action toward Adam and Eve, as ***"the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."*** (Gen. 3:21) Driven from the Garden, God reveals His **ultimate** goal to restore humanity to right relationship in the covering of their nakedness (a symbolic covering of their sinful condition). We witness this intention to redeem again in God's gracious warning and the consequent mark provided for Cain (Gen. 3, 4). We see it more clearly in God's promise to rescue Noah and his family from the devastation of the flood (Gen. 6-9). We also see it pointedly in His covenant promise to Abraham to bring forth a great nation (Gen. 12, 15, 17). As God marvelously delivered Israel from hundreds of years of wretched slavery, He graciously gave them His 'Law'. To see the close association between proclamation and redemption, observe how God spoke to Joshua of His presence going with His redeemed people.

***"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."***  
(Josh. 1:8-9)

God displayed His redemptive purpose again and again as He forgave and restored His chosen people Israel. Though sorely tested, God's covenant faithfulness continued during the period of the judges and down through the prophetic witness of Israel's history, repeatedly calling them to turn back to Him in true repentance. And, if we were to examine the writings of King David, these too reveal how God's redemptive purpose is saturated in proclamation, all carefully written down so that they, and we, might learn vital lessons of faith.

While here on earth, Jesus unashamedly claimed that the real source of His teaching was the Father's Word: ***"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak"*** (John 12:49). And when Jesus taught and healed, He clearly demonstrated how proclamation was integral to God's redemptive plan. We see this most incisively in Jesus' profound confession, ***"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"*** (John 6:63). Here, God's word and His redeeming purpose interlock. Evidently, even Peter gradually came to understand this as he responded, ***"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."***

As the church carries out God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the Gospel of Christ Jesus to the world, God continues to reveal to both Jew and Gentile His matchless plan of redemption. Wonderfully illustrated by the book of Acts, the visible church of today has been charged with a \_\_\_\_\_. By announcing to those we meet the wonderful "Good News", we participate in the awesome work of God's redemption, the Holy Spirit working in and through the proclamation of His word.

***"And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."***  
(Mat 24:14) (Acts 13:48)

## Discussion Questions:

1. How is proclamation of God's word an essential part of God's redemptive plan?
2. If you believe the Gospel truth of God's redeeming grace, and that it is uniquely experienced through the proclamation of God's word, how should this impact your life?
3. When was the last time you proclaimed God's work of redemption (God's saving grace in Jesus Christ) to a friend, co-worker or acquaintance? If not, then how might this change in 2013?