

Redemption Through the Scriptures

Gaining a Clearer Picture of Christ and His Saving Work

Desire for a Loving Relationship #13

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Redemption Through the Scriptures

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WONDERFUL LACKING BETTER RESTORED BEST

The Program (1-5) The Purchase (6-10) The Pleasure (11-14)

God's plan reflects God's wisdom *God's plan requires design and sacrifice* *God's plan is fulfilled in the church*

Survey of Redemption (15-16): *Interweave redemptive themes through time and scriptures*

The trouble among mankind

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“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.” (Genesis 6:5-7)

Ruined Relationship

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- The original purpose for humanity was that they relate to God through loving relationship. In humanity's relationship with God love and obedience are inextricably tied in scripture. Obedience is the expression of love.

~ “Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.” (Dt. 11:1)

~ “Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.’” (John 14:23)

Ruined Relationship

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- Adam & Eve chose (and we through them) the opposite of love when they rebelled against God. The heart which is seen as the **source** of love is corrupted in the fall.
- The fall presents this problem: men and women will always choose rebellion, hate & disobedience. The solution cannot come from the ruined heart of man.

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“So she went to inquire of the Lord. The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.” When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.” (Genesis 25:23-26)

Relating With Rebels

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- God chooses to enter relationship with those He desires regardless of their behavior or effort. Before Jacob and Esau are born the sovereign Lord declares that the **older** will serve the **younger**.
- God's choice to freely extend “one-way” love is known as **election**. Through this aspect of redemption God displays His grace, mercy and sovereignty.

Romans 9:10-16

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Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

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“The covenant principles continue to be demonstrated in Jacob. Through the election of grace he becomes the descendant of Abraham through Isaac to whom the promises of God are made”

– Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan*

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John 3:3-8

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"



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John 3:3-8

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."



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Relationship Reborn

- In the O.T. a pattern emerges in God's choice of people to whom he will communicate and relate. By choosing the **second** born male children God shows that it is not those who are naturally strong but the weakest that depends upon God and therefore have the most intimate relationship with Him.

First Born	Second Born
<input type="checkbox"/> Cain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abel
<input type="checkbox"/> Ishmael	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Isaac
<input type="checkbox"/> Esau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob



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Ready for Relationship

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8)

- By being "born again" our corrupt hearts are enabled to respond in love once again.



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Matthew 22:34-40

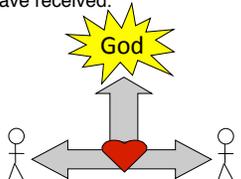
Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.



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Loving Relationship

- Loving God is a matter of **obedience**. It encompasses both our vertical and horizontal relationships. We must live in dynamic loving relationship with God and with people at the same time.
- Living in relationship with God is a continuous submission to his will, as revealed in scripture. We must reject the path of selfishness and choose to imitate the love we have received.




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1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



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Conclusion

The work of Jesus allows us to relate to God in the way He wants us to – by loving Him! This is so that we might rightly respond to God in obedience and enjoy our relationship with Him now and forever.



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Discussion Questions

- In what areas do you struggle to love God? How have you seen your attitudes and actions change as you mature?
- How are love and obedience interconnected?
- How does God's one-way love impact the way you relate to others? What makes for a good relationship? What is one relationship in which you have experienced brokenness?

