

ROOTED
What About Redemption
October 30, 2022

WHAT IS REDEMPTION

This is a concept found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has been said that the Old Testament provides the foundation for the New Testament when it comes to redemption. If you looked up the words redeem, redeemed, or redemption you would find it in both testaments. Much of what I will share with you today can be found in *The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* by Lawrence O. Richards and *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* by W.E. Vine and F.F. Bruce.

“The basic shape of the doctrine is formed in the Old Testament. But the full meaning of all that God has had eternally in mind is unveiled only in the New Testament.” (Lawrence O. Richards)

Hebrew words: **3 different Hebrew words translated “redeem” or “ransom.”** Each presents and emphasizes a particular aspect of God’s great concern for humanity. Each word is cast against the background of helplessness. Each finds human beings captured, held captive by the power of forces they cannot overcome. Only by the intervention of a third party can bondage be broken and the person freed. (Lawrence O. Richards)

In the New Testament we have the idea of buying something or someone back through the payment that is referred to many times as a ransom. It highlights the helplessness of the one being redeemed and the significance of the one doing the redeeming. It is out of love that God was willing to pay the ransom price for your sin and my sin. We are all under the grip and power of sin, slaves to sin, and unable to purchase our own freedom. What was the price that was demanded to pay for our sin? It was the blood of Christ that bought our pardon. The blood of Christ was the complete payment for our sin. (Lawrence O. Richards)

WHERE IS REDEMPTION FOUND IN THE BIBLE

Let’s start with the Old Testament and look at the three words used for “redeem” or “ransom”

1) used to indicate a transfer of ownership. The transfer came through payment or some equivalent transaction. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Deuteronomy 15:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.

This is a reminder to the Israelites that they had been delivered by God and they were His unique possession. They were instructed to celebrate God’s deliverance from Egypt yearly in the Passover. God’s deliverance then was a constant reminder that they could trust Him.

2) to act on behalf of a relative in trouble or danger, playing the part of a kinsman. This verb or a form of it occurs 118 times in the Old Testament. The persons or objects are held in the power of another and the one whose person or possessions are held is unable to win their release. Then, a third party appears and is able to obtain their release. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Moses went to Pharaoh, as instructed by the Lord, to get Pharaoh to release the Israelites. Instead, that thoroughly ticked off Pharaoh who made the Israelites work even harder. The Israelites then complained to Moses and then Moses went back to God asking, *“Why have you brought trouble on this people? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”*

God tells Moses, “You will see what I will do to Pharaoh.” By God’s mighty hand He will make Pharaoh let go of the Israelites. He reminds Moses, “I am the Lord...” We all could use that reminder, couldn’t we? Then the Lord says in **Exodus 6:5–8**, Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. **6** “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **7** I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **8** And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.’”

3) ransom, to atone by making a substitutionary payment. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Exodus 30:11–16 Then the LORD said to Moses, **12** “When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. **13** Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the LORD. **14** All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD. **15** The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives. **16** Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of Meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, making atonement for your lives.”

CONCLUSION from the Old Testament: it involves someone who is in bondage or danger. God intervened in the redemption of Israel from Egypt; Yahweh owned Israel as His people. Because of God’s deliverance they could trust Him with their future troubles and challenges.

What words are used in the New Testament?

1) to redeem or ransom. This word and other forms of the word focus attention on both the release won and the means by which that release was accomplished. To release by paying a ransom price. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

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, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

2) root word means *to purchase*. It is an intensive form that could be used to portray the sense of redemption of a slave. (Lawrence O. Richards)

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) — **13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),

Galatians 4:5 (NKJV) — **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Making the most of every opportunity:

Ephesians 5:16 (NKJV) — **16** redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5 (NKJV) — **5** Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

3) general sense of deliverance (W.E. Vine)

-Nation Israel:

Luke 1:68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

Luke 2:38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

-redemptive work of Christ

Hebrews 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

4) strengthened form of the word; literally, a releasing for (i.e. on payment of) a ransom (W.E. Vine)

Romans 3:24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

For the believer there is also the day of deliverance from the presence of sin and of the body to corruption.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

CONCLUSION from the New Testament: Redemption points to the fact we are helplessly in bondage to sin, unable to effect our own release. At His own expense, God paid the price needed to win our release.

WHY REDEMPTION

*It is the only hope of escape from the power and penalty of sin: we couldn't pay the price

*The believer is given a place in the family of God through the price that has been paid

*Affirms the fact that the believer is not his/her own, they have been bought with a price

*The believer has been redeemed from an empty way of life, now having been given meaning and purpose

*Instead of being in bondage to sin, the believer is now owned by God, where true freedom really exists

*There is now a commitment on the part of the believer to live for God

SO WHAT???

*Who is paying for my sin?

*In what ways am I reflecting that I am under new ownership?

*Who am I telling about the One who has paid for my sin?