

Redeemer

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I. Introduction

A. Where it is found

Isa 60:16 I am your redeemer

Isa 49:26 I the Lord am your Saviour and your redeemer

Isa 63:16 our redeemer from of old is your name

Israel's redeemer (Isa 44:6; 49:7)

Your redeemer (Isa 43:14; 44:24; 48:17)

Their redeemer (Ps 78:35; Prov 23:11; Jer 50:34)

The holy One of Israel, our redeemer (Isa 47:4)

The holy One of Israel, your redeemer (Isa 41:14; 54:5)

My redeemer (Ps 19:14)

A redeemer will come to Zion (Isa 59:20)

B. Terms to understand: Human titles used to describe God

(1) Shepherd (Ps. 23)

(2) Father (Isa. 63:16; Ps. 103:13)

(3) Go'el - Kinsman redeemer (Exod. 6:6)

(4) Lover - husband (Hos. 1-3)

(5) Parent, father and mother (Hos. 11:3-4)

C. Definition of Hebrew and Greek words

Hebrew/Old Testament

1. Gaal, which basically means "to free" by means of a price paid; it translates "redeemer" or, more literally, "one who redeems." A personal intermediary, usually a family member (i.e. kinsman redeemer).

a. The kinsman biblical responsibility:

When an Israelite was obliged to sell his inheritance because of poverty it was the duty of the nearest relative to redeem it for him (Lev 25:25).

If a kinsman became a slave, the kinsman was to redeem him or her (Lev 25:47-49).

If brothers were living together and one died without an heir, the other brother was to redeem his name by marrying the widow and rearing a son (Deut 25:5-10).

The kinsman also became the recipient of property that had been unjustly kept from a deceased relative (Num 5:6-8).

It was likewise the kinsman duty to avenge the blood of his next of kin by seeking the life of the murderer (Gen 9:5-6, Num 35:19, 2 Sam 14:7).

b. God acted as kinsman in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt (Exod. 6:6; 15:13; Ps. 74:2; 77:15; Jer. 31:11).

c. He is "the Redeemer" (Job 19:25; Ps. 19:14; 78:35; Prov 23:1; Isa 41:14; 43:14; 44:6, 24; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7, 26; 54:5, 8; 59:20; 60:16; 63:16; Jer. 50:34).

2. Padah and its cognates mean “to deliver” or “to rescue”; it could refer to deliverance from:

- a. Trouble or distress (2 Sam 4:9; 1 Ki 1:29; Ps 25:22)
- b. The redemption of the first born, (Ex 13:13-14; Num 18:15-17)
- c. Redemption from sin and rebellion (Ps 26:11; 49:7; 103:8; 130:7-8; Isa 1:27; 59:20)
- d. Spiritual redemption (Ps 49:7, 8, 15)
- e. Deliverance from death (Job 4:20; Ps 44:26; 49:15).

Greek/New Testament -

Redemption has several dictionary meanings coming from different Greek words that are all translated as “redeem.”

1. Agorazō - which comes from the word for marketplace; it means “to purchase from the marketplace.” This is a commercial term which reflects a price paid for something. This would be the same word you would use if you were to buy a potato from the local market. In relation to our salvation, it means simply to pay the price our sin demanded.

Rev 5:9 ...You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from ...
(1 Cor 6:20; 7:23; 2 Pt 2:1; Rev 14:3-4).

2. Exagorazō - The second word is the same word, agorazo, with the prefix ex added to it. Ex means “out of.” So exagorazo means, not only to pay the purchase price, but also “to take out of the marketplace.” In relation to our salvation, it means that, not only did Christ pay the price for our sin, but He also removed us from the “marketplace” of sin.

Gal 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us”

Exagorazō reflects Jesus’ substitutionary death on our behalf.

Jesus bore the “curse” (Deut 21:23) for us all; of the performance-based (Mosaic) Law, which sinful humans could not accomplish. In Jesus, God’s justice and love merge into full forgiveness, acceptance, and access! (Gal 3:13; 4:5; Eph 5:16; Col 4:5).

3. Luō, “to set free”

a. Lutron, which means “to pay a ransom,” so that the “held one” can be freed.

1 Pt 1:17-19 ...you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold ... but with precious blood, ... the blood of Christ.

b. Lutroō, “to release”

- (1) to redeem Israel, (Lk 24:21)
- (2) to give Himself to redeem and purify a people, (Tit 2:14)
- (3) to be a sinless substitute, (1 Pt 1:18-19)

c. Lutrōsis, “redemption, deliverance, or liberation”

- (1) Zacharias’ prophecy about Jesus, (Lk 1:68)
- (2) Anna’s praise to God for Jesus, (Lk 2:38)
- (3) Jesus’ better, once offered sacrifice, (Heb 9:12)

4. Apolytrōsis - “redemption”

(Lk 21:28; Rom 3:24; 8:23; 1 Cor 1:30; Eph 1:7, 14; 4:30; Col 1:14; Heb 9:15)

5. Antilytron - “redemption” (1 Tim 2:6).

Crucial texts - links release to Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross.

1 Tim 2:6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

He is the one and only acceptable sacrifice; the one who dies for "all"
(Jn 1:29; 3:16–17; 4:42; 1 Tim 2:4; 4:10; Tit 2:11; 2 Pt 3:9; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:14)

II. God as Redeemer:

God alone has the ability to save his people from slavery and captivity. God's redemptive will and power is demonstrated in his deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt, and supremely through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Redemption in the Old Testament

A. The nation of Israel - God is their redeemer

Isa 47:4 Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel. (Ps 19:14)

1. God promised to redeem Israel from Egypt (Ex 3:8-10; 3:21; 14:4).
2. God redeemed Israel in the exodus from Egypt (Dt 13:5; 15:15; 21:8; 24:18; Ne 9:9-11; Ps 77:14-20; 78:35; 105:23-38; 111:9; Isa 43:1; 47:4; 48:17; 54:5; 63:16; Hos 13:4; Mic 6:4; Ac 7:30-36).
3. God redeemed Israel from the Babylonian exile (Isa 41:14; 43:4; 44:6,24; 49:26; 54:5; 60:16; 62:12; Jer 50:33-35; 51:12; Mic 4:10; Zec 10:8).

"Redeemer" is a characteristic title for God in the second part of Isaiah. In the context of the exile Isaiah reminds Israel that God would act as redeemer.

4. God redeemed Israel because of:
His love (Dt 7:8; Ps 44:26) & His power (Dt 9:26; 2Sa 7:23; 1Ch 17:21; Ne 1:10)

B. God redeems people from difficult circumstances.

Ps 34:22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,

1. Examples of people who experienced redemption
Abraham was redeemed from the land of idolatry to become God's servant (Isa 29:22).

Job, in the midst of his despair, declares God to be his redeemer (Job 19:25).

Boaz - Boaz acts as kinsman-redeemer; by purchasing the land, he secures Ruth's freedom from poverty and widowhood, taking her to be his wife (Ruth 4:1-12).

Jeremiah - God instructs the Prophet Jeremiah to redeem the family estate by paying the redemption price (Jer 32:6-15).

2. He gives deliverance from enemies (Ps 69:18; 106:10; 107:2; Jer 15:21; 31:11).
3. God redeems people from the bondage and guilt of sin (Ps 34:22; Ps 130:7-8; Isa 59:20).
4. We respond to God's redemption through repentance (Isa 1:27-28; Ps 26:11; Hos 7:13)
5. God redeems his people from death (Ps 49:15; 103:4; Job 19:25-27)

Redemption in the New Testament - Jesus Christ, as redeemer:

Jesus Christ redeems believers from all forms of sinful bondage and oppression through His death and resurrection. The price of that redemption, his own death, represents a ransom paid to secure the freedom of those held in bondage to sin.

A. Background - to understand redemption

1. Mankind is enslaved to sin
(Jn 8:34; Rom 3:10-18; 6:23).
2. Mankind is under a death sentence (Col. 2:14) because of sin; we are unable to keep:
 - a) the OT standard of the Mosaic Law (Gal 3)

b) the NT standard of Jesus - the sermon on the Mount (Mt 5 - 7).

3. Jesus, the sinless lamb of God, has come and died in our place; (Rom 3:23-25; Eph 1:7, 13-14; Jn 1:29; 2 Cor 5:21). the result of redemption: freedom from sin and freedom to serve God through Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 6:18-20; Tit 2:14; 1 Pt 1:13-19).

By implication both Jehovah and Jesus are "near kin" who act on our behalf. This continues the familial metaphors (i.e. father, husband, son, brother, near kin).

Redemption was not a price paid to Satan (i.e. Medieval theology), but the reconciliation of God's word and God's justice with God's love and full provision in Christ.

At the cross peace was restored, human rebellion was forgiven, the image of God in mankind is now fully functional again in intimate fellowship!

4. The redeeming work of Christ also has a future aspect. There will be a final deliverance of the physical body from the present decay and corruption (Rom 8:23; Eph 1:14; 4:30). This final redemptive act will occur when Jesus returns to earth at the resurrection of the body. Creation itself will experience redemption. (Tit 2:13-14, Ro 8:19-23; Lk 21:28; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30; Rev 1:5-8)

God's redemptive work brings him praise and worship (Eph 1:3-7; Ex 15:1-21; Ps 71:23; 111:9; 119:134; 136:1-26; Isa 35:4-10; 44:22-23; 48:20; 51:11; 52:9; Rev 5:9; 14:3-4)

B. Old Testament prophetic promise that finds fulfillment in Jesus

Isa 1:27 Zion will be redeemed with justice (Isa 49:26; 52:3; 59:20)

Isa 35:9-10 No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isa 51:10-11; 43:1; 51:11; Jer 31:11-14)

Isa 63:16 For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us. You, O LORD, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name. (Isa 29:22-26; 43:1; 44:24)

Job 19:25-27 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me! (Hos 7:13; 13:14)

Ps 49:7-9 No man can by any means redeem his brother or give to God a ransom for him--
8 For the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease trying forever-- 9 That he should live on eternally, that he should not undergo decay.

C. Redemption is found in Jesus

1. Jesus is redeemer

1Co 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

1 Pt 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

2 Cor 5:14-15 he died for all

2. Redemption is in Him

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

3. The price of redemption = the blood of Jesus
1 Pt 1:18-19 we are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ
(Col 1:13-14; Lk 1:68; Ro 3:23-24; 1Co 1:30; 7:23; Gal 3:13-14; 4:4-5; Heb 9:11-12; 1Pe 1:18-21)

D. The means by which Jesus has redeemed believers

1. Redemption comes through the incarnation of God's Son, Jesus Christ .
Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Ro 8:3; Heb 2:14)
2. Jesus redeems by his sacrificial death
Heb 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
(Jn 10:11, 15; 11:50-51; 18:14; 2Co 5:21; Eph 1:7; 1Pe 1:18-19; Rev 1:5)
3. Jesus redeems by paying a ransom
Mt 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mk 10:45 See also Ac 20:28; Heb 9:15; Rev 5:9)

E. The purposes for which Jesus redeems believers

1. Jesus redeems us so that their sins may be forgiven
Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
(Rom 4:25; 5:6, 8, 10; 6:10; Eph 1:7; Ac 26:18; 1 Cor 15:3; Heb 9:15; 1 Pt 3:18; 1Jn 1:7)
2. Jesus redeems to make us pure and holy
Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
(1Co 6:19-20; 7:23; 1 Thes 5:10;)
3. Jesus redeems us so that we will receive blessings
Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
(Gal 3:13-14; 4:5; 5:1)
4. Jesus redeems us so that we will receive final redemption
Ro 8:23 we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. (Lk 21:28; Eph 1:14; 4:30)

F. Forms of bondage from which Jesus Christ redeems believers

1. Jesus redeems from slavery to sin
Rev 1:5 ... To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood - (Ps 130:8; Ro 3:23-24; 6:18,22; Tit 2:14; 3:3-5; 1Pe 3:18)
2. Jesus redeems us so that we know his love
1 Jn 3:16 by this we know love, that he laid down his life for us

Rom 5:6-10 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

3. Jesus redeems from the curse of the law
Gal 3:13 Christ 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” (Gal 4:4-5)

4. Jesus redeems from religion
Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
(1Pe 1:18; Gal 4:3; Col 2:20)
5. Jesus redeems from the power of Satan
Col 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (Ac 26:18; Gal 1:4)
6. Jesus redeems from death
Heb 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. (Hos 13:14; 1Co 15:54-57)
7. Jesus redeems from the coming judgment
Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Ro 8:1-2; 1Th 1:10; 5:9)

The following References were used in this study:

The Superiority of the New Covenant
You Can Understand the Bible
Collins Thesaurus of the Bible
30 days to understanding the Christian life
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Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible
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