

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Wonder of Our Redemption

1 Peter 1:18-21

Part One

Read 1 Peter 1:18-21”Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers. (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (20) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you (21) who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” In this section of Scripture the word that we want to focus upon is the word redemption. What is the essence of this word?

There once was a boy who made a boat of pieces of wood which were individually carved. Each piece was carefully designed and fitted together with the greatest of care. The boat was his pride and joy. One day while he was out sailing his prized boat on a large lake near his house an unexpected wind came up and quickly blew his boat out of his reach. Unable to grab the boat it was quickly blown out of his sight. He thought he had lost the boat. A number of months later he was in a nearby town and there in the window of one of the shops was his boat. The boy excitedly went into the shop and explained to the shop keeper that this was his boat. The shopkeeper would not give him the boat, but said certainly he could have it if he paid the full price. And this is exactly what the young boy did, he went out picked up odd jobs here and there, saved his money, and **BOUGHT HIS BOAT BACK.**

This is the essence of “redemption.” It means to “buy back.” This is one of my favorite words. We call Jesus “Savior” but He is also our “Redeemer.” He is our “redeemer” because he bought us back. **THOMAS WATSON SAID THE FOLLOWING:**

Great was the work of creation, but greater the work of redemption. It cost more to redeem us than to make us. In the one it required just the speaking of the Word. In the other it required the shedding of blood.”

Creation was the work of God’s fingers according to **Ps. 8:3**. If this is so then “redemption” is the work of God’s right arm accomplished through the precious blood of an unblemished and spotless lamb **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

Why does Peter introduce for us this grand theme of redemption at this point in the epistle? It is, I believe, to reinforce for the reasonableness of the things he exhorted us to do in **VV. 13-17.**

What were those things?

1) Peter exhorted us to fix our hope on the grace to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ **V. 13.**

2) Peter exhorted us to be holy **VV. 14-16**

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3) Peter exhorted us conduct ourselves in fear during the time of our stay upon earth..... **V. 17.**

It is in light of these exhortations that we have to read **V. 18** , “**Knowing that you were not redeemed**” If we can understand and appreciate our redemption which is emphasizing a particular aspect of the great salvation that we have received it will help motivate to do the will of God in the course of our daily lives. We need to understand that the motivation for living in a certain way is not in order to be saved, but because we are saved. The believer is to live his or her life in a state of gratitude. Understanding and appreciating our redemption will help us in fact live our lives in this way.

Over the course of the next several weeks we are going to be asking and answering four very important questions. The first of those for questions is:

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED FROM?

Let us go back and read **VV. 18-19** “**And knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**” There is a very clear answer that immediately jumps out at us in **V. 18**. But in addition to this very clear answer given in **V. 18** there is clearly an image in Peter’s mind of an earlier redemption that formed a backdrop for Christ’s redeeming work which is mentioned here.

OLD TESTAMENT FIGURE

Exodus 12 makes **1 Peter 1:18-21** come alive for us. It makes it come alive for us because this Old Testament event of redemption is a figure of the future redemption that would be accomplished by Christ.

As hopefully you all remember Abraham was the father of the Jewish people. His son was Isaac. And to Isaac was born Jacob. And to Jacob was 12 sons. The next to the youngest was named Joseph. Joseph fell into disfavor with his brothers who sold him into slavery in Egypt. The brothers when explaining his disappearance to Jacob lied to him and said that he had been killed by wild beasts. While the brothers continued to try to make a living in Palestine, Joseph in a series of supernatural interventions on the part of the Lord eventually became the second most important person in all of Egypt. When a famine affected the land of Palestine and threatened Jacob’s family with starvation God again orchestrated events in such a way that Jacob and his children were reunited with Joseph in Egypt. At the time when Jacob and his children with their families came into Egypt the group according to **Exod. 1:5** numbered only 70 people.

Everything went well for them in Egypt for a while but sometime after the death of Joseph a pharaoh in Egypt became fearful of their growing strength and he therefore made them slaves. This may have reduced their freedoms but not the ability to reproduce. After over 400 years in Egypt the initial seventy multiplied under adverse circumstances to over 2,000,000. When the Israelites finally turn to God for deliverance from their bondage, God quickly responds by redeeming them “with an outstretched arm and with great judgments” (**Exod. 6:6**).

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God soon reveals Himself to Pharaoh through a series of object lessons, the ten plagues. These plagues grow in severity until the tenth brings death to the firstborn of every household of Egypt. Israel is redeemed through this plague through A PASSOVER LAMB. It is this event that we will be examining for a moment in **Exod. 12.**

Let us begin to read this particular section:

V. 1 “Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, (2) This month shall be the beginning of months for you it is to be the first month of the year to you. (3) Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their father’s households, a lamb for each household. (4) Now if the household is too small for the lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. (5) Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (6) And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.”

The Israelites were being commanded on the tenth of Abid to select an unblemished lamb and to take this lamb into their homes. The animal that would be sacrificed was to be introduced into the family. It was to become identified with the family. Then on the fourteenth of Abid the whole of Israel was to kill their lambs at twilight.

The passage then continues on, let us continue to read beginning in **V. 7 “Moreover they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. (8) And they shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** Continuing to read in **V. 11** the Lord tells the Israelites the following **“Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded; your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste ---”** Does this sound familiar? Of course this is similar to the instructions we found in **1 Peter 1:13** where Peter exhorts us to “gird up the loins of our minds” Then Moses under the Lord’s direction finishes **V. 11** with these words **“it is the Lord’s Passover.”** Why was this meal eaten in this way called the Lord’s Passover?

This is explained very clearly in the verses that follow, look at **V. 12 “For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments -- I am the Lord. (13) And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. What is very clear from this is the fact that the lamb’s life was to be in place of the first born. The death of these lambs was a substitutionary death.** The blood on the two doorposts and the lintel was in place of the life of the Jewish family’s firstborn

This substitutionary death was to be remembered. Look at **V. (14) “Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.”**

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The emphasis on it being a memorial for future generations is again emphasized in VV. 26-27 “**and it will come about when your children will say to you, what does this rite mean to you?**” (27) **that you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes: Did it actually work?**

Look at VV. 29-33 “**Now it came about at midnight the the Lord struck all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first born of cattle. (30) And Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians; and thee was a great cry in Egypt, for thee was no home where thee was not someone dead. (31) Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go; worship the Lord, as you have said. (32) Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.” (33) And the Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, “We shall all be dead.”**

The passover celebration was to commemorate forever events we have just described which is very clear in the passage we have just considered. But it also pointed forward to Christ himself who is OUR PASSOVER according to 1 Cor. 5:7....The following statement was made by the Apostle Paul to the Church at Corinth. “Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.” BECAUSE CHRIST IS SO CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS THE “PASSOVER” WHEN VIEWED BY THE CHURCH IS THE REASON WHY WE CAN IDENTIFY THIS EVENT AS A FIGURE OF CHRIST’S FUTURE REDEMPTION. Just as the Passover lamb was without blemish, so is our Passover. Just as the Passover lamb was identified with the nation of Israel by inclusion in their home from the 10th of Abid to the 14th of Abid so Jesus was identified with us in coming into our earthly through his incarnation and ministry amongst us. Just as the Passover lamb was offered up as a substitutionary sacrifice, so was Christ. Just as the Passover lamb secured redemption from the nation of Israel out of Egypt so was Jesus, our Passover lamb, secured our redemption.

Surely this is what Peter had in mind as he writes V. 18. And this understanding provides for us a wonderful backdrop for the NEW TESTAMENT REALITY WHICH IS CHRISTIANS DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN THROUGH THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST.

NEW TESTAMENT REALITY (1 Peter 1:13-18)

In light of the greatness of our salvation we have already seen we should respond to the Lord in VV. 13-17 by fixing our hope on the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ(V. 13) Living holy lives (VV. 14-16). And finally by living in reverential fear of the Lord (V. 17).

Peter continues on into V.18-21 to reemphasize the greatness of our salvation but this time he does it by focusing in our our redemption WHICH IS PATTERNED AFTER ISRAEL’S DELIVERANCE FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT BUT OUR DELIVERANCE IS NOT FROM THE BONDAGE OF EGYPT BUT RATHER FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

Romans 6:6, 17,18,20,22