

## Old Testament Shadows of Redemption – 1: Noah and the Flood

### INTRODUCTION:

1. With today's lesson we shift our focus, in a sense, from the O.T. shadows of mercy and judgment to those of redemption.
  - A. This is not a complete shift away from God's mercy and judgment seeing that both are often found in the O.T. shadows of redemption.
  - B. For, without question, God's mercy is always present when He chooses to redeem His creation.
2. Today I want to begin by looking at the biblical concept of redemption to help us understand its nature and its use in describing our salvation.
3. For, the O.T. shadows of redemption are times and events where God redeemed, or **saved**, His people in such a way that these point to, or picture, certain aspects of our redemption, or salvation, in Christ!
4. To do this I want to consider:
  - A. A general view of biblical redemption.
  - B. A shadow of our redemption that we may overlook, which is Noah's salvation through the Flood.

### BODY:

#### **I. Redemption: Terms and Observations**

##### A. Old Testament terms:

1. **Ga'al** (Hebrew): to **redeem**, avenge, ransom, to redeem by payment from slavery, to redeem/buy back through payment of a price (**BDB, Strong, LBD**)
2. **Padah** (Hebrew): to **ransom**, redeem, rescue, **deliver**, to **release**, preserve (**BDB, Strong**)
3. Observations:
  - a. We think of redemption or ransom in the form of "buying back," or paying a price for someone's release, which is often its meaning, and central to ransom.
    - i. This idea is found in the Passover lamb and other O.T. sacrifices for sin.
    - ii. It is part of the O.T. laws concerning redemption of a family member from slavery.
  - b. Yet, these terms can also refer to rescuing, delivering, and freeing someone from bondage and calamity as in God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt (Deut. 7:8 – "but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has **brought you out with a mighty hand**, and **redeemed** you from the house of **bondage**, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.>").
    - i. This is significant because here no payment was made to Egypt or anyone else.
    - ii. Salvation/freedom came to Israel through God's grace and power and Israel's faith in God and their willingness to obey Him.

##### B. New Testament terms:

1. **Lytrōō** (verb): ransom (lit. or fig.), redeem; to liberate by payment of ransom; to *set free*, redeem, *rescue* someone (**Strong; Thayer; BDAG**)
2. **Exagorazō** (verb): to ransom, fig. to *rescue* from loss, redeem; to redeem by payment of a price to recover from the power of another; *deliver* someone (**Strong; Thayer; BDAG**)
3. **Peripoiēō** (verb): acquire (buy), purchase; to get for oneself, purchase, to gain; to *save* or *preserve* for oneself, to preserve one's life (**Strong; Thayer; BDAG**)
  - a. This is mentioned because the church is *purchased* with Christ's blood (Acts 20:28).
  - b. The idea is that in saving us we become *God's* property.
4. Observations:
  - a. Note the similarities in meaning of the O.T. and N.T. words, which include the idea of payment of a price/ransom for *freedom* the ideas of *deliverance* and *rescue*.
  - b. Thus, to sum up biblical, spiritual redemption would be to say that it refers to the whole of God's actions to **save/free us from the bondage and calamity of our sins**.

- i. We are redeemed with the **price** of Christ's blood (1 Pet. 1:18-19 – "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.").
  - ii. Redemption is our **justification**, or to be made righteous (Rom. 3:24 – "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus").
  - iii. Redemption is our **deliverance** (Col. 1:13-14 – "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.").
  - iv. Redemption is **freedom** from the curse of the law to be saved in Christ.
    - i) Gal. 3:13 – "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")"
    - ii) Rom. 7:6 – "But now we have been **delivered** from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."
  - v. Redemption is **forgiveness** of sins (Eph. 1:7 – "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace").
  - vi. Redemption is **freedom** from living in sin (Tit. 2:14 – "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.").
- C. When we look for shadows of redemption in the O.T., we should look for events that God brings about that result in salvation, deliverance, freedom, etc., that present a pattern for our salvation.
- 1. Thus, what we might not think of as a shadow of our *redemption*, may very well be just that in that it presents a pattern or outline of how our redemption, or salvation, takes place today.
  - 2. And, the shadow that I would like to consider is that of God's salvation of Noah.

## II. Shadows of redemption – Noah's salvation through the flood (Gen. 6):

- A. Noah was saved by **grace** (Gen. 6:5-8).
- 1. The time came when the wickedness of man was so great that God had no choice but to cleanse the earth and start over (6:5-8).
    - a. Here alone we find the tragic statement about God's view of mankind's condition from our loving, kind, and graceful God—He was sorry He had made man!
    - b. How sad that people's hearts became so evil that God's longsuffering would have only allowed greater evil and more death and eternal destruction.
    - c. But grace is often found with judgement, seeing Noah found grace in God's eyes (6:8).
  - 2. Why did Noah find grace while the world was condemned?
    - a. Although the Bible's answer is simple, it doesn't agree with today's view of grace.
    - b. Noah found grace because he sought to *walk with God* and lived a *just*, perfect, or blameless life amidst such great wickedness in the world (6:9).
      - i. The world's continual desire to do evil brought on its destruction (6:5-7, 11).
      - ii. Noah was an exception to this condemnation because he was an exception to the world's wickedness. He sought to do God's will and wasn't corrupt and violent.
  - 3. So, Noah was redeemed, or saved, by God's grace from the flood *because* he lived righteously before God (Gen. 7:1; Ezek. 14:14 – "Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord God.").
- a. Someone may ask, "If he was righteous, why would he need grace?"
  - b. First, grace was given in God's warning and instructions concerning building the ark!
  - c. Second, I am not saying Noah *was sinless*. But, Noah, like Abel at the beginning, would have brought his sin to God and dealt with it in faith according to how God prescribed

(Gen. 4:3-4, Heb. 11:4 – “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **through which he obtained witness that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”).

- d. People are counted as righteous when in faith they deal with their sin as God prescribes!
- B. Noah’s redemption, or salvation, is a *shadow* of our salvation by grace through faith in Christ.
  1. Our salvation (Eph. 2:8-9 – “For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.”).
    - a. People have a problem with that “not of works” statement, believing it nullifies any action on our part in being saved. But they are wrong!
    - b. True faith, as we shall see, demands obedient action on the part of the sinner.
  2. And, Noah was saved by God’s grace through **faith** (Gen. 6:8; Heb. 11:7 – “By **faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved** with godly fear, **prepared an ark for the saving of his household**, by which he condemned the world and **became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith**.”). What we learn is...
    - a. By *faith* Noah obeyed God’s instructions *given by grace* and *prepared an ark* to save him and his household, which shows that *saving faith is obedient faith* (Gen. 6:14, 22, 7:1)!
    - b. By obeying God in faith and preparing an ark, Noah became the **heir of the righteousness which is according to faith!**
      - i. So, righteousness that comes by faith includes obedience!
      - ii. For, if Noah had not obeyed and built the ark, he would have been *lost* and would *not have become the heir of righteous* with is **by faith!**
  3. In this same fashion, grace from God for redemption/salvation comes to those who have a heart like Noah’s that is willing to *hear* His word, *believe* it, and *obey* it.
    - a. In the parable of the soils those saved were willing to hear/accept God’s word (seed) and obey it (Lk. 8:15 – “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having **heard the word** with a **noble** and **good heart**, **keep it** and **bear fruit** with patience.”).
    - b. Jesus’ saving grace comes upon those who obey Him!
      - i. Heb. 5:8-9 – ESV – “Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the **source of eternal salvation to all who obey him**”
      - ii. Rom. 6:17-18 – “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And **having been set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness.”
      - iii. But, to those who refuse to obey 2 Thess. 1:8-9 says Jesus is coming “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”.
- C. As if the Holy Spirit sought to remove all doubt about this matter, *Noah’s salvation in the ark through water* is a *shadow of our salvation in Christ through water in baptism* (1 Pet. 3:20-21 – ESV – “because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup> **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an **appeal to God for a good conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”).
  1. Noah by faith obeyed God and **built an ark** in which he and his family **were saved through water** (3:20).
  2. Corresponding to that, or as the antitype of that, we are **saved** by obeying God in **being baptized in water** (3:21).

- a. People don't like to hear that, but baptism is a **command** of God to be obeyed to be saved (Acts 2:38; 10:48).
- b. And, just as the flood didn't clean the earth physically but spiritually, baptism isn't to remove physical dirt, but the spiritual dirt of sin that corrupts the conscience before God.
- c. As Noah acted in faith that God would save him by building the ark, so baptism is an act of faith in the working of God to redeem, or save, us from the condemnation of our sin.
  - i. Col. 2:12 – "having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him **through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead."
  - ii. Rom. 6:3-4 – "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, **so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.** <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would **no longer be slaves to sin;** <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is **freed from sin.**"
- d. So, we are redeemed, saved, or freed from sin in baptism.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. As we can see, there is much that can be learned concerning our salvation by the shadows God has presented for us in the O.T.
2. If we hope to be saved by God's grace through faith, like Noah we must listen to God's word, believe it, and obey it.
3. God wants to redeem you. But to do so, you must obey the gospel by putting your faith in Christ, repenting of your sin, confessing your faith in Jesus as the risen Christ, and by being baptized into Christ to be forgiven of your sins and saved!
  - A. If you haven't done these things, you are in the same condition as those outside the ark.
  - B. And, like them, the day of reckoning and destruction is coming for all who are outside of Christ, who haven't been redeemed by God in accordance with your obedience to the gospel of Christ!
4. Why not be redeemed today?