

Redemption through Christ : Key scriptures

Exodus 6 : 6-7

- God promised to redeem his people from slavery in Egypt and to make them uniquely His

Isaiah 43 : 1. - 4

- God's redeeming of his people is associated with making them His own
- A price needed to be paid and Egypt paid that price / were the ransom

Redemption from slavery was a vital part of the culture in ancient times, and clear guidelines were provided by God on how slaves and property were to be redeemed. The above (and numerous other) OT scriptures about God's redemption of His people refer to three important elements of the process of redemption that the Israelites were very familiar with:

- *It involved freedom from bondage of some kind*
- *A ransom or payment was required*
- *The redeemed became the property of the one who redeemed them*

1 Peter 1 : 18 – 19

- Slaves were redeemed through payments of perishable things like gold or silver
- Those who are in Christ have been redeemed from the bondage / slavery of sin by the most valuable ransom of all – the blood / life of Christ.

Titus 2 : 11 -14

- Jesus redeemed us from the bondage of wickedness.
- Through redemption we are purified and made a people of his own, eager to do good.

Ephesians 1 : 4 - 7

- Summary of the redemption process – we are redeemed by the blood of Christ, have our sins forgiven in the process and are adopted into God's family as His sons and daughters

The main cultural elements associated with redemption were fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross:

- *It brought about freedom from slavery (of sin)*
- *It involved payment of a ransom to secure that freedom (the life of Christ)*
- *It heralded in a change of ownership (being adopted into God's family as His sons and daughters)*

1 Peter 1 : 13 – 19

- We are encouraged to be prepared for action, to be self – controlled and to focus on the hope of the Age to Come, when the grace of God will be fully revealed
- As God's children we enjoy his love and protection but we are called to be obedient and holy

1 Corinthians 6 : 19 – 20

- We were bought at a price (the life of Jesus) and need to honour God with our bodies

Psalm 15

- To be in the sanctuary of God / in His presence, one needs to be righteous

1 John1 : 5-10

- Since God is light, we need to be in the light to have fellowship with him
- If we live our lives in the darkness of sin, we cannot have fellowship with God.
- When we walk in the light we have fellowship with Him and with each other
- Walking in the light does not require that we do not sin – we know that we will sin
- But walking in the light requires that we confess our sins, believing that God who is faithful and just, will forgive us
- If we continually walk in the darkness, not confessing and repenting of sin, we separate ourselves from God

Being God's children allows us to fellowship with Him in a close intimate way, but the purity and holiness of God demand that we live holy lives pleasing to Him in order to enjoy His fellowship.

1 John 3 : 1 – 3

- The love of God is so great that he redeemed us and brought us into his family so that we can be called His children
- We live in the hope of the resurrection and the Age to Come when we will be completely like Jesus
- And that hope should motivate us to purify ourselves – to live holy lives that are pleasing to God

John 8 : 12

- Jesus is the light of the world – a reference to being God Himself
- Those who follow Jesus do not live in darkness

We cannot walk in the light in our own strength – we need to be in Christ and to clothe ourselves with him. Only then will we be able to live pure and holy lives that are pleasing to God. The only way that we can be in the light is to be in him. This requires daily self denial / daily dying to self - when we are in Christ and clothed in him, we walk in the light and can fellowship with God as His children.