

REDEEMER

Isaiah 59:20 “The Redeemer will come to Zion,
And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,”
Says the LORD.

Hundreds of names and titles are necessary to describe the Person and work of the Lord, Jesus Christ. At our communion services, we've been working through the letters of the English alphabet as an aid to seeing some of those names.

We've come to the letter 'R.' Among the names and titles of Jesus that begin, in English, with that letter are:

1. **Ransom**... has to do with a price paid to set someone free. In First Timothy 2:6 Jesus is said to be **a ransom for all**. I take it to mean that His death on the Cross was sufficient to ransom any and every human being from slavery to sin.
2. Jesus is called **The Lord our Righteousness** in Jeremiah 23:6. You cannot ever be right with God on your own, by your own efforts or works. Jesus can give you His righteousness, and He does when you trust Him for salvation.
3. Jesus is the **refiner** of Malachi 3:3. He works in your life to purify you – often through the fiery trials that He oversees.
4. Jesus is also the Root of David; He's our Refuge; He's the Rock; He's the Rod of Jesse.

Our title tonight is **Redeemer**. **Redeemer** is from the Hebrew word *go'el*, more completely translated *kinsman-redeemer*. An Israelite could sell himself, his family, or his land in cases of extreme hardship or poverty. The *go'el* was the nearest living male blood relative. He was responsible, under Jewish law, to act as a **redeemer** of the mortgaged property and persons. He was the kinsman who could redeem what was lost, the *kinsman-redeemer*.

Let's take a moment to read the passages that describe this person: Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 25.

Leviticus 25:23 'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

Leviticus 25:24 'And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

Leviticus 25:25 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his kinsman-redeemer comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold...'

Leviticus 25:47 '...Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,

Leviticus 25:48 'after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;

Leviticus 25:49 'or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.'

Deuteronomy 25:5 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."

These laws are based on the principle that God owns the land He gave to Israel by right of creation. They were His stewards of the land and could not finally dispose of it as they saw fit. The land was to remain in the family God originally gave it to. By providing for a kinsman-redeemer God saw to it that the land never passed out of its original ownership. By providing that the kinsman-redeemer marry the deceased brothers' widow God insured that no family would ever cease.

From these passages you can derive four important criteria about the kinsman-redeemer:

1. He must be a near kinsman.
2. He must himself be free from any legal entanglements.
3. He must have the price of redemption.
4. He must possess the ability to redeem.

God sees the whole human race in need of redemption. Romans 7:14 describes you as **...sold as a slave to sin**. You are born into this life subject to the dominion and curse of sin, and you are a slave to Satan and to death. **You are in real need of a redeemer!**

Your redeemer, though, must meet God's four criteria: He must be your near kinsman, he must himself be free from any legal entanglements, he must have the price required for your redemption, and he must possess the ability to redeem you.

Jesus Christ - **and only Jesus Christ** - meets all of these!

Jesus Christ is your near kinsman. Jesus Christ, Who was eternally God, became a man. He took upon Himself human flesh. He did this in His incarnation that He might redeem you:

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

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

Jesus Christ is free from any legal entanglements. You are condemned by God's Law. It's standard is perfection, and all of your efforts to keep it perfectly fall short. Ask yourself this question: Am I less perfect than God? If your answer is, "Yes," then you are condemned to judgment and hell.

Dr. J. Vernon McGee states the obvious when he says,

"A drowning man is in no position to rescue someone else who is drowning. A man who rescues people who are in a sinking ship cannot himself be in that sinking ship. The lifeline must be thrown from someone who is in a place of...safety."

To redeem you, a person would have to himself have first perfectly kept God's Law and owe no debt to God. Jesus, in His life on earth, perfectly kept God's Law. He said of Himself, **Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill** (Matthew 5:17). In every point, Jesus was perfect. He alone stands ready to redeem. When He throws the spiritual lifeline to some sinking soul, He is able to rescue, for He stands upon the vantage point of having lived an impeccable, perfect life of holiness before God.

Jesus has the price of your redemption. The kinsman-redeemer must have the price which is the legal amount necessary to provide for deliverance. God says in His Word that the price of redemption from sin is blood. In Leviticus 17:11 you read,

Leviticus 17:11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

God called for the shedding of blood to atone for sin and to bring redemption and deliverance. The blood of animals could never atone for sins. **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins** (Hebrews 10:4). There must be found some man, some kinsman, who is satisfactory to God, who is willing to pay with his blood the price required for redemption.

The problem is to find someone who will satisfy the holiness of God. He must be related as a near kinsman; but he cannot have a sin nature.

This is where God quite literally stepped in. **Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me** (Hebrews 10:5). The blood of animals could not redeem man; the blood of man could not redeem man. So God took upon Himself a human body that was not contaminated by the sin nature. He did this in the virgin birth. He then shed this blood on the Cross, fully atoning for the sin of the human race. Twenty-one times the Bible identifies the precious blood of Jesus as satisfying the price of your redemption, e.g.,

1 Peter 1:18 ...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
1 Peter 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Jesus possesses the ability to redeem you. Redemption involves purchasing back what was originally sold or lost. What you originally lost in the Garden of Eden when Adam sinned was eternal life in the presence of God. Only Jesus can restore you to eternal life in the presence of God. In His resurrection from the dead He is called the **firstfruits of them that sleep**. Because He rose, you will one day rise

and enjoy eternity - you will be restored to the estate that was lost by Adam, but regained by the Risen Lord!

To be your kinsman-redeemer someone would have to meet these criteria. In order to meet them he would have to be God come in human flesh, live a perfect sinless life on earth, die a substitutionary death on the Cross, and then rise from the dead.

The Lord, Jesus Christ, He is your kinsman-redeemer. There is salvation in no other Name! Seeking your love, Jesus came and claimed you as your Kinsman-Redeemer.

The concept of the kinsman-redeemer is very much a legal concept. But God presents it in the context of love. The perfect illustration of the kinsman-redeemer in the Bible is the love story of Boaz and Ruth in the Book of Ruth.

In the Book of Ruth, a citizen from Bethlehem named Elimilech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons move to Moab during a famine. The boys marry Moabite girls, but soon both father and sons die, leaving three widows. Naomi returns to Bethlehem, accompanied by one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth. Naomi has lost everything and is destitute. She sends Ruth out to glean behind the reapers during the barley harvest. In the providence of God, Ruth gleans barley in a field owned by Boaz - a near kinsman of Elimilech. At their first meeting Boaz falls in love with Ruth. Upon learning of this, Naomi begins planning for the wedding. She sends Ruth to Boaz to request of him to fulfill his responsibility as a kinsman redeemer. Boaz is thrilled with Ruth's request, but tells her there is a kinsman redeemer closer than he. Boaz arranges a meeting with the closer kinsman redeemer. Upon hearing the facts, this man steps aside and allows Boaz to fulfill the kinsman redeemer responsibilities, including marriage to Ruth. Ruth conceives a baby boy, Obed, who is the grandfather of King David.

Boaz loved Ruth, and made his love known to her. Seeing his love, Ruth came to Boaz and claimed him as her kinsman-redeemer. In the same way, Jesus loved you and, on the Cross, made His love known to you. Seeing His love, you come to Jesus and claim Him as your kinsman-redeemer!

Once Ruth responded to the love of Boaz, she immediately assumed the role of his engaged bride-to-be: she washed, anointed herself, and put on her best garments:

When you come to Jesus Christ you are washed clean of your sins and you are anointed as you receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Then, on a daily basis, you are washed by the cleansing power of God's Word, and you go on being anointed by His Spirit for service and ministry.

Ruth exchanged her widow's rags for her best garment. When you come to Jesus He takes away the filthy rags of your own righteousness and replaces them with His own perfect righteousness.

Ruth was instructed to present herself to Boaz and to do what he told her. After you come to Jesus you are to present yourself to Him in obedient service.

Your redemption is not a cold, formal, matter-of-fact business transaction; it is a passionate act of everlasting love for you by Jesus Christ, your kinsman-redeemer.



Calvary Hanford

- being changed to bring change -





