

As we continue in our series on “Redemption” there’s one thing we have not yet explored and that is, “What does the idea of ‘Redemption’ truly mean?” This week we will walk through this idea that permeates all of scriptures from the beginning to the end and look at, in the Word of God, what God means by the idea of “Redemption.”

### **Monday, April 9, 2018**

The word “Redemption” in Hebrew is “Ga’al,” which is a cultural word that was derived from societal ideas that developed during a time when slavery was prevalent and people were bought and sold very easily. God uses this word to describe His people and the process through which they are made whole.

#### **Read**

Exodus 6:6, “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment.’”

These are the words God speaks to the Hebrew people before bringing them out of slavery and out of Egypt.

#### **Reflect**

There are two aspects to the idea of “Ga’al” that have to be fulfilled in order for redemption to fully take place:

1. To pay the debt or the price for that person.
2. To restore that person back into their community and make sure their needs are met.

God does two things in the Exodus story to the Hebrew people. What are they?

Re-read Exodus 6:6, and 6:7 if you need help.

In what way has God done these two things for you?

### **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

In order to dive deeper into the idea of redemption, “Ga’al,” and the Hebrew scriptures, we must understand the cultural concept of the “Ba’at ab,” which in English we would translate as “the father’s house.”

#### **Read**

John 14:2

Jesus speaks of “the father’s house” and we often interpret this as an end-time verse of “going to heaven,” but it’s important that we understand the bigger picture of what Jesus is saying here.

In the Hebrew culture, “the father’s house” was not only a physical place but a symbolism for the patriarchal society in which the father owned everything and took care of everyone under his care. If you needed food, you went to the father and he fed you. If you needed clothes, you went to the father and he gave you clothes. If you needed a drink, you went to the father and he would provide for you. Whatever you needed, the father, or the patriarch in your family, would provide for all of your needs. This was a major aspect, and still is, in the Eastern culture of the role of the father within the family.

If something were to happen to you and you fell outside of the “Ba’at ab,” then it would be the father’s responsibility to bring you back in at whatever price was necessary. This was called “Ga’al” or redemption.

Read Luke 15:11-32 (the Prodigal Son story) as an example of what a true patriarch does for his family.

#### **Reflect**

In what ways do you notice the function of the patriarch and the “Ba’at ab” and “Ga’al” taking place in the story?  
In what way has God been your “Ba’at ab” and your “Ga’al” in your life?

### **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

Now we will begin to take things a little bit closer to home and for the next three days it will be challenging and get quite intense as we work towards viewing our relationship with God in light of “Ga’al” and redemption.

It’s not hard to connect the dots and see how God is not only our patriarch but invites us to live in the “Ba’at ab,” or “the father’s house,” as a part of our redemption.

Remember, there are two aspects of redemption that must take place:

1. A debt has to be paid
2. We are restored or returned into right standing with our needs being met

#### **Read**

Luke 1:68

Now, take a moment to also read thru the following verses and reflect on the idea of God being our “redeemer” and what that truly means from a cultural perspective:

1 Peter 1:18-19

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20c

Isaiah 44:22

#### **Reflect**

As you read through these verses, what are the major themes that connect them all? In what way are you failing to live out your “redemption,” allowing God to do the work in you?

#### **Pray**

God, forgive me for not realizing and appreciating the redemption You have provided for me. Help me to live as though I’m truly redeemed and to return to Your house and to live as a child of God.

### **Thursday, April 12, 2018**

It is not enough to know we are redeemed and that we are restored, but there is also a role for us to play. It is the role of the patriarch to take care of the people within the family, but what happens when the patriarch dies? That role is passed down to the first born, who assumes all the authority and all the belongings, but also takes on the responsibility for making sure the family remains “redeemed” and people’s needs are met.

Listen to what God calls Israel. Read Exodus 4:22-23.

What does this tell you about Israel’s role in the world and how they are to treat people?

But this pattern continues. Read Colossians 1:15.

Who now becomes the “firstborn?”

How does Jesus fulfill his “firstborn” status and the two obligations?

Now read Hebrews 12:23

Who becomes the final “firstborn” of God’s people?

If this is true and God considers the church the “firstborn,” as Israel was and Christ was, then what does that mean we are called to do?

**Pray**

God, give me the strength and the courage to fulfill this call as the firstborn child who has inherited all the rights and responsibilities to care for Your people. Give me eyes to see and the courage to fulfill this calling.

**Friday, April 13, 2018 – Our Role**

We have seen that we are called as the church to be the “firstborn” of the living God, and therefore inheriting the roles and responsibilities of the “Ba’at ab,” or the father’s house, to be part of the redemption process of God’s people. It’s important for us to know that God cares for His people, especially for those who are on the outskirts.

Read the following verses and reflect on God’s view and feelings around these people.

Exodus 22:21-24

Psalm 68:5

Who are these people referred to in these readings?

What do you notice about how God views these people?

What do you feel that God is calling us, as a part of the church who is the “firstborn,” to do about these people?

The final verse I want to share with you is from Deuteronomy 27:19. Take a moment to read it.

What do you notice God is sharing here about how passionate He is about these people?

Serving these people groups and others is an extreme challenge. Often we don’t know what to do, or how to handle the person on the street begging for money on the side of the road, or when we hear about those who are homeless, addicted to drugs, or have other issues that seem to overwhelm us and cause us often to do nothing about it.

**Reflect**

Spend some time reflecting on your own life and what God is calling you to do about this as the firstborn of God.

**Pray**

God, help me to live out the calling of what it means to be “the firstborn.” When I see those in need, may it move my heart as it moves Yours, and may You give me the courage to do something about it.