



From the Inkwell

To all Christians there are some core beliefs. "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:...but now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept" 1st Corinthians 3,4,20.

However, as we move from the fundamental position and seek for further understanding of God's Plan for us we start to differ in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

In a set of articles this issue of Latter Rain seeks to present the understanding of the Christian Israelite Church with regards to our origin, our composition and end as shown in the Bible. Each person has a spirit, a soul, and a body in this life and the hope of the celestial and terrestrial places are set before us; salvation and redemption.

Other articles include Expand your Bible about how Jesus brought about a change in attitude, a Children's story and of course the vegetarian recipes.

You may be challenged with some new and different concepts as you read these articles, but we trust that through them God may bring you into a closer relationship with Himself.

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Introduction

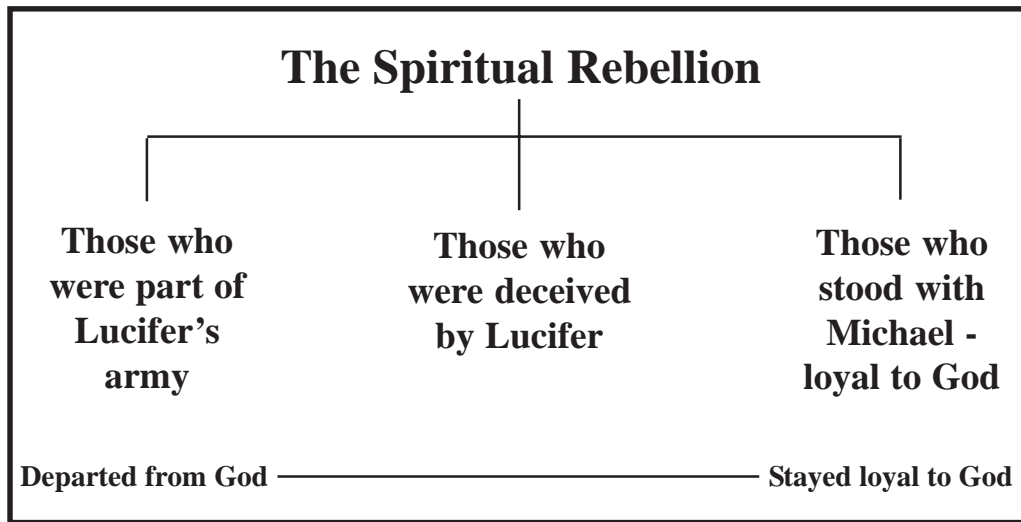
Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:9, “*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*” There are many ways that this verse can be explained, and there are many explanations which, subject to the context, may all be true. However, we believe that one reference Solomon was making is to the great Plan that God has ordained for this world and for each of us.

We understand from interpretation of Scriptural passages and metaphors that at the beginning of God’s Plan for this

three basic groups:

- those who were part of Lucifer’s rebellious army (“*the devil and his angels*”);
- those who were deceived by Lucifer (Satan), with varying levels of persuasion, to turn from God and follow him, and
- those who stood with Michael, faithful to God.

Jesus said, “*In my Father’s House are many mansions*”. We understand that He was referring to the differing groups that will be seen in God’s new Kingdom, as further explained by Paul in 1



Creation of which we are a part, He formed an “*innumerable number of Spirits*”. These spirits were placed under the leadership of Lucifer, the great Archangel. However, Lucifer rebelled against God’s authority and sought the allegiance of these spirits. Michael, another Archangel mentioned in the Bible, stood for God and good whilst Lucifer, later to become Satan, stood for wrong and evil. In this rebellion in Heaven each spirit joined with one of

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Corinthians 15:23,24, “*... Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*”

We understand that there will be basic groups within the New Kingdom which will align with the way in which each spirit responded to Satan in the spirit rebellion. So, as Solomon said, “*The thing that hath been,*

it is that which shall be". However, the mansion that each will receive within that group is dependent on how each responds to God and good in this life. "...and that which is done is that which shall be done."

Jesus said in Revelations 22:12, "...my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." So the reward or mansion that each will receive in the New Kingdom will relate to what they have done during this life here on Earth. As Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 15:23, "*But very man in his own order.*"

This issue of Latter Rain looks further into the way in which we understand that God will bring people into the New Kingdom.

There are three articles in the series:

Salvation

Redemption

Universal Salvation

We have used a number of words in a particular theological way in these articles, and these should be explained up front. We are not suggesting that this is the only meaning for these terms, but that this is the way in which we have used them in these articles.

Salvation – the hope of the resurrection, receiving a celestial (spiritual) glory in the New Kingdom;

Redemption – the hope of being alive when Jesus returns and receiving a terrestrial (physical and spiritual) glory, being preserved without physical death;

Universal Salvation – the concept that at the end God will overcome Satan's power and death will be destroyed, thus restoring life to all. 📖

There are many areas of support for the **Spiritual Rebellion**:

From the "Life of Adam and Eve", chapters 13-16

[The devil speaks to Adam:] "When God blew into you the breath of life and your countenance and likeness were made in the image of God, Michael...called all the angels, saying, 'Worship the image of the Lord God, as the Lord God has instructed.' And when Michael kept forcing me to worship, I said to him, 'Why do you compel me? I will not worship one inferior and subsequent to me. I am prior to him in creation; before he was made, I was already made. He ought to worship me.' When they heard this, other angels who were under me refused to worship him. God was angry with me and sent me with my angels out from our glory; and because of you, we were expelled into this world from our dwellings and have been cast onto the earth. And immediately we were made to grieve, since we had been deprived of such great glory. And we were pained to see you in such bliss of delights. So with deceit I assailed your wife and made you to be expelled through her from the joys of your bliss, just as I have been expelled from my glory."

From the First Book of Enoch, chapter 8

"And [of the fallen angels] Azazel taught the people the art of making swords and knives, and shields, and breastplates; and he showed to their chosen ones bracelets and decorations, shadowing of the eye with antimony...the beautifying of the eyelids, all kinds of precious stones and all colouring tinctures and alchemy. And there were many wicked ones and they committed adultery and erred, and all their conduct became corrupt. Amasras taught incantation and the cutting of roots; and Armaros the resolving of incantations; and Baraqiyal astrology, and Kokabel the knowledge of the signs, and Tamel taught the seeing of the stars, and Asderel taught the course of the moon."

Spirit, Soul & Body

1st Thessalonians 5:23

It is popularly thought that man consists of only two component parts, namely either the 'body and spirit' or 'body and soul'. The Bible clearly tells us that there are in actual fact three parts to man these being 'the spirit, and soul, and body'. Paul tells us in 1st Thessalonians 5:23, "*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*".

This popular conception of there being only two parts to our being arises from the fact that most people feel that the spirit and soul is one.

Why then does Hebrews 4:12 tell us, "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any* *t w o e d g e d*

sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit". This is quite plain. If the spirit and soul can be divided they are two individual components and together with the body make three.

Now to discuss the parts individually I will first take the body.

The Body

When God first gave a body to man God made the body in the image of His own eternity and immortal. Wisdom of Solomon 1:14 says, "*For he created all things, that they might have their being: and the generations of the world were healthful; and*

there is no poison of destruction in them, nor the kingdom of death upon the earth. For righteousness is immortal".

The body was given to man in order that he might keep and appreciate fully the rest of God's creation in this earth we now live upon. Imagine for one moment how difficult it must be for people who are handicapped and are unable to appreciate fully this earth's beauty. The body allows the soul to appreciate this earth, and the soul would indeed be handicapped in this respect if parts of the body malfunction, such as sight, hearing, etc., and indeed so,

if it did not have a body at all.

Now our first parents, Adam and Eve, did what God had forbidden them to do,

that being, to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and death was pronounced on the body - death was pronounced on the body because Satan had attracted the woman and deceived her (1st Timothy 2:14).

To prevent Satan from gaining a physical immortal body for himself, God pronounced death upon the body, not only on the first generation, but on all generations thereafter until the second coming of man's Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God first created man in His own image, that is spiritual (Genesis 1:26,27), in order that man might multiply and replenish the earth after his own kind.

*“Righteousness is
immortal”*

Wisdom of Solomon 1:14

The Soul

The soul of man is not distinct from the body insofar as it being distinguishable by man. The spirit, which attracts the blood of man, may be seen by those whose eyes are permitted to be open, and it appears in full size and likeness of the person whose blood it attracted being the life of their temple, but no man can see the soul.

Man did not have a living soul when he was first created. God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, which was the spirit of life; blood not then being the life of his body. 2nd Esdras 3:5, *“And gavest a body unto Adam without a soul...”*

He, God, then caused man to sleep, and made a woman with a heart of blood and a living soul. God then took part of that spirit, which was the life of man, and attracted her blood, which became the life of her body. God then brought the woman so that man might touch the tree and be inoculated with the same life, and have a soul and body like unto her. But He, God, had permitted the tree to have both life and death in it.

If he had eaten of it when it was good, he would have been inoculated with that good. But he ate of it when it was bad, which caused death to be pronounced on him, and his posterity; the death of the body being the wages of the sin of breaking the first covenant, as well as filling him and his posterity with diseases and the cause of human weaknesses during their mortal lives.

We see now how man gained a soul, and from the fact that he committed evil, his body acquired an evil content and death was pronounced upon it. This evil caused man to sin, and brought his soul into bondage to Satan, unless he repented. The soul can be procreated as is shown in Exodus 1:5, *“And*

all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls...”

The Spirit

Let us now consider the spirit of man. The spirit is that power force which enables us to live. *“For the body without the spirit is dead”* James 2:6. Although it is closely associated with the breath of life, it is distinct from it. The spirit has had a pre-existence, that is, God created the spirits in the beginning, before the earthly creation.

The spirits are of three types – these types resulting from the war in heaven between God and the Archangel Lucifer. Lucifer attempted to usurp God’s position of power and authority. Some of the spirits joined willingly with Lucifer, or Satan as he is also known; others were seduced unwillingly, because they were too weak to resist his power; whilst the third group were those who remained loyal to God. God cast Satan and his allies (the spirits that went with him willingly) out of heaven (Matthew 25:41). The spirits that fell, not willingly but, because they were too weak to resist sufficiently, have been given a second opportunity by God to show their allegiance to Him on this earth.

Many readers of this article may not realise that their spirits have existed for a very long time, and that they have been tempted before in much the same ways as we all are tempted on this earth today. The battle is continuing here on earth with Satan and his spirits opposing our spirits, who may receive assistance from Christ. We need His help, in fact we must allow Him, through us, to fight Satan, for we can do nothing or ourselves. Man and Satan are not equal in strength, but man plus Christ can overcome Satan.

The spirits that remained true to God are sent to this world, also, for a further

testing and strengthening of their allegiance to God.

Now let us reiterate here what has been said, as it now may be seen more clearly. The spirits that have been given a body, or permitted by God to have a body and soul, have been given them by God, so that they may have the privilege of being part of that marvelous creation that God has made for Himself. Had man, that is, the spirit, the soul and the body, not fallen again under the power of Satan, God would have achieved His Creation unto Himself, and shown what He had in store for the spirit, soul and body of man. However God is still going to bring His desire about, and work out an even more exceeding and eternal weight of glory for man (2nd Corinthians 4:17).

Separation of Spirit, Soul and Body

What happens to the spirit and soul and body at death? What is death? Death is a separation of the spirit from the soul and body. The soul and body go to the grave (Psalm 89:48). The body goes to corruption; the soul sleeps in happiness or misery, according to its deeds in the mortal life (Job 14:12; Isaiah 57:1,2).

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” Ecclesiastes 12:7. *“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”* Ecclesiastes 3:21.

As is recorded, the body goes to corruption in the grave, and it is raised no more. Job 7:9 says, *“As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more* (physically)” 1st Corinthians 15:44. Also Paul says, *“...thou sowest not that body that shall be...”* 1st Corinthians 15:37. The soul remains asleep in the grave until

the resurrection which will take place at our Saviour, Jesus Christ’s, second coming (Job 14:12, Revelation 20:4-6).


“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” 1st Corinthians 15:51. What mystery was this that Paul wrote of? The mystery spoken of is really something that in greatness is beyond expression.

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” 1st Corinthians 15:52. We shall be changed. How shall we be changed? The corruptible (the dead) must put on incorruption, and this (living) MORTAL MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY (1st Corinthians 15:54). Immortality of our physical bodies, that the body, henceforth, will NEVER see death. But wait, when is this wonderful event that Paul talks of destined to come to pass, and, more importantly, what are the requirements? This glorious event will take place at the second coming of our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ.

Jesus spoke of His Second Coming, and you may read it in Matthew chapter 24. You will soon notice, and begin to draw parallels between what Jesus said would be the world conditions at the time of His second coming, and what actually are world condition today! You will also notice, perhaps for the first time, that His return is at hand, YES, possibly in our very life time. This transformation from mortality to immortality will be in our life time, we will witness it (Revelation 1:7), perhaps we may even be able to partake of it. Immortality is the redemption of spirit, soul and body. *“...I pray God that your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* 1st

Thessalonians 5:23.

This promise was given and reserved to God's Elect, Israel. *"For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou has not known me"* Isaiah 45:4. One may ask who are Israel? Israel are the Ten Tribes which God dispersed amongst the Gentiles, they have lost their identity, and seemingly, are unaware of this great promise, which God through Jesus Christ has set before them.

God has promised to gather Israel again, together with the two tribes that now make up the people of Judah or the Jews (Jeremiah 50:20). There will be 144,000 that will be God's Elect; 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes (Revelation 7:4; 14:1). They shall inherit immortality by following the teachings and guidance embraced by Christian Israel, namely, Jesus Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom and the Laws of God as given through Moses. 

Hymn No. 78

(Isaiah 26:9; 40:5; Acts 1:9-11; 1st Corinthians 15:22)

The Saviour, now dwelling above,
Who once did ascend in a cloud,
Again shall return to His love,
Then all to His name shall have bow'd:
Angels with their message did come,
That He to the earth should return,
The long scatter'd seed to bring home;
Then Isr'el no longer shall mourn.

From Christ, the great Author of hope,
The light and the truth all shall come;
The cause of all sin He'll root up,
And Isr'el to Zion bring home;
He, full of compassion and love,
Whom the nations are bound to adore,
When the truth is reveal'd from above,
In th' glory and might of His pow'r.

This truth do the nations despise,
Until by His sceptre they're bow'd,
His gospel will make them all rise,
And glory to Him sing aloud:
When th' knowledge of God is reveal'd,
The earth shall His righteousness know;
His truth will no more be conceal'd,
To His name shall all praises flow.

Salvation

The world at large seems to be moving so quickly away from conservative Christian values that the average person in the Street may struggle with the concept of “Salvation”.

“I’m all right!” may be the response if asked. “I don’t hurt anyone, and don’t do much wrong. What do I need to be saved from?” Meanwhile, the same people continue to deplore the breakdown of social values, the increase in crime and the growing disrespect of others in society, and can’t understand why there is war between the nations! “Why do people act like that?” they will ask. The same people, however, may have little problem with accepting infidelity in marriage leading to broken families, taking advantage of others and the inequities of our social structures. “I’m not hurting anyone else”, they will respond if asked about many of their own “bad habits”. Many people fail to realise the basic link between individual attitudes and the direction in which society is travelling.

But there is a bigger game being played out than just what we do here and now. With our finite minds we are not capable of understanding the full implications of what is going on. But the Bible gives us some insights. We understand that this world is a battleground between right and wrong, good and evil and life and death. Following the spirit rebellion in the spirit creation in which the allegiance of each spirit towards God was tried, God created this World in which each of the spirits receives a soul, and a body with a life of blood. Lucifer, or Satan as we know him now, again seeks to gain the allegiance of each individual setting himself up as god in this world.

Paul talks about this creation groaning and travailing in pain until now (Romans 8:21,22)

waiting to “*be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*”. This whole creation is in bondage to Satan and evil, but God has promised deliverance (John 14:30).

God said to Noah, “*And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man’s brother will I require the life of man*” Genesis 9:5. Moses explained in 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 an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*”

It was the blood of Jesus that only could fulfil all these requirements – the brother of every man, the perfect sacrifice and the deliverer from the power of Satan’s bondage.

Usually by the term “being saved” people think of life after death – being saved from the hands of the devil, and being able to live in the presence of God in eternity. Being saved is commonly thought of as those who have died being brought back to life at the resurrection when Jesus returns, and receiving some sort of spiritual life in God’s Kingdom. This fits in with Paul’s thoughts in 2nd Corinthians 5:1, about a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Jeremiah, when talking about people in this world, said, “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” Jeremiah 17:9. Jesus said, “*If I do not go away, your Advocate will not come, whereas if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will confute the world, and show where wrong and right and judgement lie. He will convict them of wrong, by their*

refusal to believe in me; he will convince them that right is on my side, by showing that I go to the Father when I pass from your sight; and he will convince them of divine judgement, by showing that the Prince of this world stands condemned” (John 16:8-11 NEB) It is only through the influence and power of the Spirit of God that people in this life can even begin to understand the absolute of right and wrong, and that if they continue to do wrong, their separation from God increases. The thoughts of the natural man are from Satan, not from God (see Romans 8:7 and James 4:4).

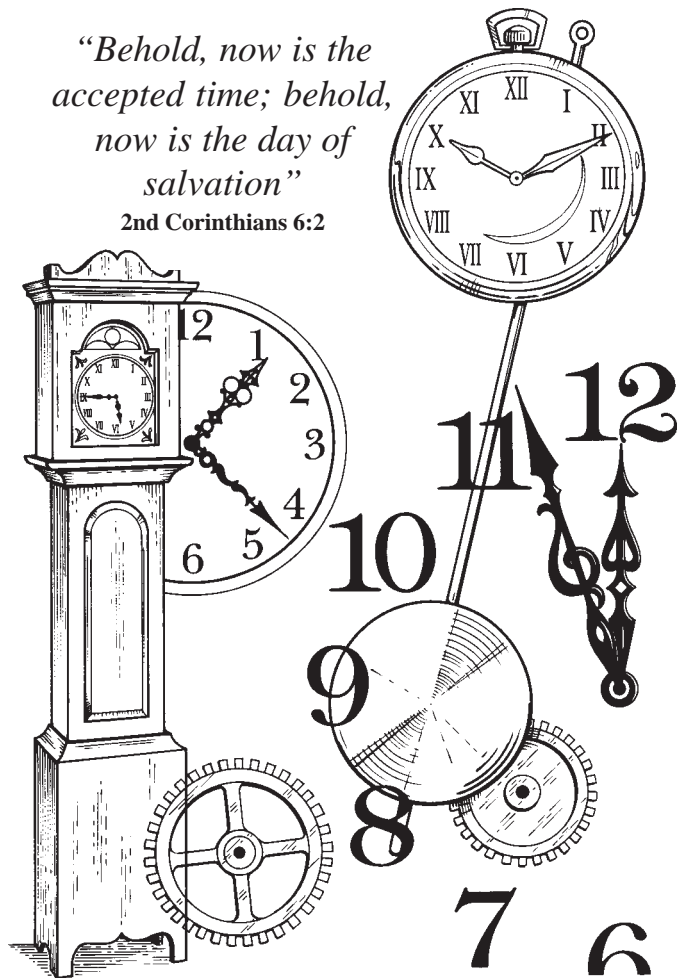
However, this article is directed to people who have come to understand that there is a separation between the natural man and God, through being led by God’s Spirit, and have recognised their own separation from God at a personal level, through sin. Sin is transgression of God’s law, and it is sin that separates us from God. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23. Christians accept that the only path to reconciliation with God is belief in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. In some way, the shedding of His blood was able to make remission for the sins of the whole world. *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might*

be made the righteousness of God in him” 2nd Corinthians 5:19-21.

Peter spoke about the hope that such people hold when he said, *“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls”* 1st Peter 1:9. To receive this salvation we must have faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, ask God for forgiveness and seek to live our life in the way God would want us to live. 2nd Chronicles 7:14 says, *“If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their*

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”

2nd Corinthians 6:2



sin, and will heal their land.” This salvation will be manifested in individual believers when Jesus returns.

Paul spoke about the hope of the resurrection in 1st Corinthians 15. In v40 he says, *“There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.”* In v44 he explains further, *“It is sown a natural body (dies); it is raised a spiritual (celestial or heavenly) body.”* The celestial (heavenly or spiritual) glory is the glory of the resurrection. Why do we believe it is celestial, or non-physical? Jesus said in Matthew 22:30, *“In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”* Paul further explained in 2nd Corinthians 5:1, *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (body – terrestrial) were dissolved, we have a building of God, and house not made with hands (spiritual – celestial), eternal in the heavens.”*

To understand further the type of the resurrected body, it is necessary to first understand the composition of each person. Each person in coming to this life on Earth receives a spirit (which pre-existed in the spiritual realm before this life), a physical body made from “the dust of the earth”, and a soul which is uniquely given to each person by God when they are born into this life. At death the spirit returns to God who gave it, and the body and soul “sleep” in the grave until the resurrection. *“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”* Ecclesiastes 3:21. At the resurrection, the body is not raised. It is the soul that is raised by the spirit to form a spiritual body and face the judgment. The physical body is not raised, but the evil of that being is destroyed when

the body dies. The body is a vehicle through which each receives a world consciousness in this life to establish their level of allegiance to God and good or to Satan and wrong. The spirits, which were persuaded by Satan to fall in the spirit world, now have an opportunity in this life to establish the level of support they will truly give to God. Salvation will be enjoyed by all believers at Jesus’ return.


The Bible talks about a state called “hell”. Jesus tells us that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Peter said that Jesus had descended into hell, but could not be held by it, so on the third day rose again (Acts 2:31,32). We understand that hell is the state of separation of the spirit from the soul and body at death, and later of the spirits from the souls of those beings who do not take part in the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5,6). Just like Jesus at the resurrection when the spirit and soul are reunited to form a spiritual body, that person is delivered from hell.

Paul said, *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him”* Hebrews 2:3. The hope for those who pass from this life is the glorious hope of being raised to life at Jesus’ return to receive a glorious celestial body, and to enter into the New Kingdom and forever be with our Lord. To receive this glory, is to receive the salvation of the soul (Hebrews 10:39).

God, through Jesus Christ, has offered this salvation to all people. Is your salvation sure? Have you asked God for the forgiveness of your sins so that through the sacrifice of Jesus you will be free from the law of sin? You must make the choice and have an inward conviction of this hope if you are to be a partaker of this great

reward when Jesus Christ returns.

Paul said in Romans 8:1-2, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

This article has looked at being made free from the law of sin, but a companion article in this issue of Latter Rain will look at the hope in Scriptures to overcome even physical death and be made free not only from the law of sin, but also from (physical) death. 

Take Now Thy Son

“Take now thy son, thine only son,
Well loved, I know, by thee,
The long expected, promised one,
And offer him to Me.”

Thus came to Abraham, that day,
This hard and strange request,
No thought had he to disobey,
But in his God to rest.

Quite early Abraham arose,
And with his son, set out,
God’s wishes he would not oppose,
His wisdom could not doubt.

“My father, here is fire and wood,
Where is the lamb to kill?”
Thus Isaac spake, nor understood
The working of God’s will.

“My son, I know God will provide
A lamb for sacrifice,”
For though his faith was being tried,
In triumph it could rise.

Soon reaching God’s appointed spot,
Together, side by side,
God’s message, Abraham could not
From Isaac, longer hide.

Upon the altar he was laid,
The knife was there to kill,
For Abraham was not afraid
God’s wishes to fulfil.

“Lay not thine hand upon the lad,”
Thus came the saving voice,
“Your faith and trust have made Me glad,
And made My heart rejoice.”

“Behold a ram behind thee, caught,
A sacrifice to be;
This for an offering I have brought,
And Isaac shall be free.”

God’s spotless Lamb, a sacrifice,
Was offered on the Tree,
To pay sin’s penalty and price,
That we should be made free.

No substitute for Him was found,
At Cross-crowned Calvary,
When on God’s altar He was bound,
And slain for you and me.

Can you such love and mercy spurn,
And bid Him go away?
Will he not to the Saviour turn,
While He is here today?

He pleads with you, oh, hear His Voice,
Can you such love refuse?
Will you, now make His heart rejoice,
Will You My Saviour choose?

Universal Salvation

I would like to consider the following Bible promises with you, *“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear”* Isaiah 45:23, and, *“As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God”* Romans 14:11 and, *“That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth”* Philippians 2:10.

If God has said every knee will bow to Him, it will, in His place, at His time. Why should we doubt? The same God who created the sun, moon, and stars, and the orbits of the planets, and who has set in sequence our seasons and days, has spoken. Further, once having bowed the knee to Him, all beings will be subject to Him, having been then delivered from the power of Satan.

This understanding is called Universal Salvation.

Universal Salvation

Universal - relating to all things or all men; applying to all members in a community; and Salvation - fact or state of being saved.

Universal salvation accepts that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is, and was, and will be, sufficient to gain the victory over Satan and evil, and therefore all whom Satan has taken as prisoners by death, will receive salvation. They have lost their physical bodies through the curse that was upon mankind in Genesis 3:19, but their souls and spirits, which have been separated, are offered the grace of God again, through the sacrifice of the cross.

Satan Chained

Revelation 20:1-3 reads, *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

Now notice, when he is bound - *“...he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled...”* so there will be people who will live on this earth for a thousand years, and they will not sin because the adversary has been chained. And what did God say - that if man could live a day (a thousand years) without sin, he would enter (physically) into his Kingdom.

Satan recognised

When Satan is loosed, this group who have still been living with evil in their bodies, will recognize that it is Satan who has caused them to sin, and they will then accuse (complain) to God about Satan, that He has been the cause of the promotion of evil in them and in the World.

Satan will then be cast from the presence of God's people, and all souls which have been held prisoner by Him (because of their sins), will recognize their error in not accepting God and God, and confess that their evil within them was promoted by Satan. They have lost their physical body, through the curse upon all mankind, and now they will develop a love toward God

- ALL will be saved

and accept the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. When Satan the accuser is cast out their thoughts will turn God-ward. Why shouldn't they then be accepted even as "*...the least in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:19)?

God's Desire

God said by the prophet Ezekiel, "*...as I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye, from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*" Ezekiel 33:11, and again, "*...if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby*" Ezekiel 33:19.

When Satan is not there to cause them to sin, they will turn from evil, and accept Jesus' sacrifice for their sins and their repentance will be accepted. God has said every knee shall bow to Him.

Our Frailty

Unfortunately, because we are human, we have limited vision and insight and try to measure things by what we can see and do. We have lived too long under the thought of "*An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth,*" and have not realized the full impact of Jesus' message and power of Love, which is extended to all. God loves people and does not want to punish anyone further when they have repented.

God's Punishment

The Bible tells us that if we sin, we shall be punished, unless we repent. Those who have lived and done wrong, and not recognized Jesus sacrifice on their behalf,

are returned to the grave after the first judgment as a punishment. Their spirit is separated again from their soul, and they suffer the second death, after it had been united to give an account of how it had lived on earth. But God is a God of love, and has made allowance for these people when He planned this World. His love is conditional, we must accept it before it can benefit us; those who had been returned to the grave a second time, will recognize the love of God and accept it. They have suffered the second death, not living again until the "*thousand years were finished*" as stated in Revelation 20:5, and will willingly then acknowledge Jesus' sacrifice for them, after their period of separation and when their adversary is taken away from being able to tempt them.

Second Judgment - second chance

Notice what takes place at the second Judgment, as recorded in Revelations 20:12, "*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened (which had been opened before): and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*" What is the "*Book of Life*"? We believe it is the book that contains the names of everyone born to a physical body in this world, each spirit from the spirit creation which came to this world and has received a soul.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it (the heavenly Jerusalem, the Holy City or Kingdom God is going to set up) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh

abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" Revelation 21:27. The Lamb, Jesus, died for all who have been born into this world, and have had to deal with Satan and the evil nature. "...*who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe*" 1st Timothy 4:10, and "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*" 1st Corinthians 15:22. Satan the aggressor has been recognized and conquered, so good will prevail.

After they have had their punishment, having suffered the second death, and been separated from God for the thousand years (ie., living in "hell"), the book of Life is opened and their names are there, so they are eligible when they bow the knee to God and accept Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf, to have their soul and spirit re-united as a spiritual being.

Love and obedience through an inward zeal to please our creator.

Remember the verse in Revelations 22:12, "*And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*" This is why Jesus said in John 14:2, "*In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you*". How are these mansions determined? Jesus did tell us, and if we think about it, it is so simple and logical, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments*" John 14:15

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of

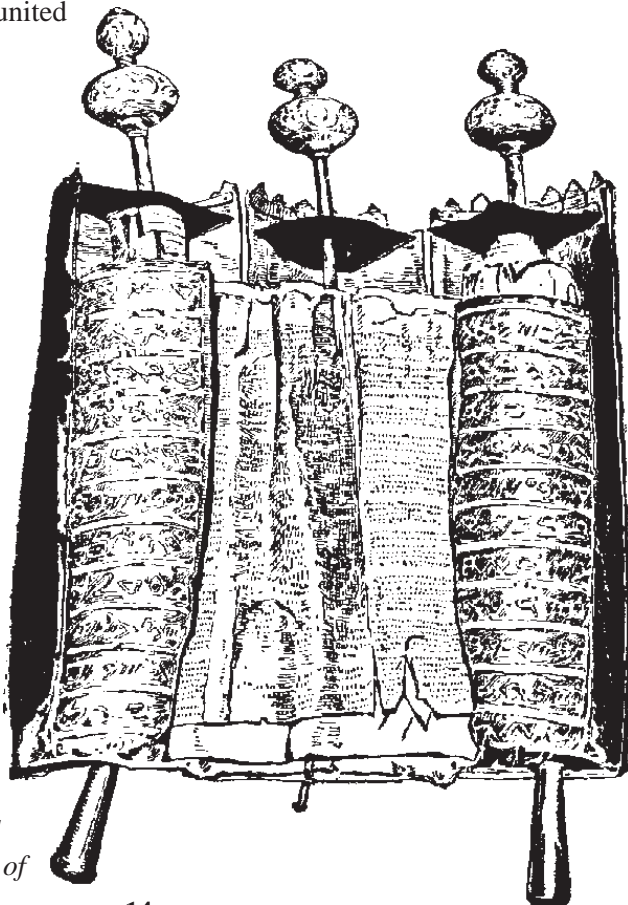
my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" John 14:21.

We want to be ready to go into His Kingdom, and through faith and love we start to prepare now, seeking guidance and help from God's Spirit.

God's Plan

Those who accept Jesus in this life show one level of love and have their soul saved at His return although the physical body is lost eternally.

Those who have not accepted Jesus in this life, show another level of love, and after going through the second death at Jesus return, acknowledge the sacrifice of Jesus to deliver them from the power of Satan during the Millenium, and bow the knee to God at the second resurrection.



Those who strive for a greater portion of God's Spirit to manifest a greater level of obedience, by keeping His commandments have the hope that they may receive redemption at Jesus' return, God redeeming their whole spirit and soul and physical body to be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, to enter into that Kingdom.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father..." 1st Corinthians 15:22-24. *"Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them"* Psalm 68:18.

We marvel at the plan of God, which has allowed for all to be saved, according

as the teachings and desire of God has been reflected in their hearts during this life.

Conclusions

1. God has promised that all will bow the knee to Him - Universal Salvation.
2. Satan is to be chained during the 1,000 year millennial reign of Jesus Christ, and his influence in tempting man to sin exposed and taken away.
3. God will punish those who do not accept Him in this life by them losing their physical bodies, and being partakers of the second death at the first resurrection.
4. There is to be a Second Judgment, and the Lamb's Book of Life will be brought out.
5. Those who had not accepted Jesus in this life, will then accept Jesus' sacrifice, and enter God's Kingdom perhaps as the least in the Kingdom, or as stars that are faint or distant (1st Corinthians 15:41,42).📖

"Fear Not"

Luke 8:50

Probably the most comforting words of the Bible are these two - "*fear not*". All down the centuries they have reassured many thousands, for they have divine power behind them.

Fear has killed millions, and put many thousands in the mental asylumes. Others have their lives made miserable through haunting fears, most of which only existed in the imagination.

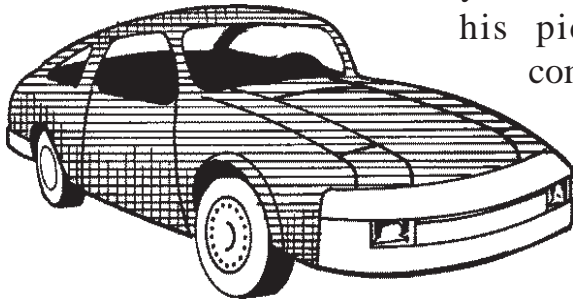
Fear's twin brother is worry, for they live together and make slaves of millions. Many people make themselves wretched and miserable in anticipating troubles. They imagine all sorts of complications over the simplest of things.

The fear of losing health, of position, of loved ones, is an ever present worry. If you have a problem, it is quite simple. First, do all you can to solve it, then leave it to God in prayer. God's power is limitless. He made man, and He made the mind. Our fears, our worries are never as great as divine power, and that power is always available to us. Unburden yourself and leave the load with God; has not Jesus said, "*Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" Matthew 11:28.

We Are All

Do you always try to do your best at whatever you do? God likes us to do our best, but we should be careful to try not to be better than everyone else at everything we do. You see, as long as we do our best, that is what counts. Here is a story about a little boy who learnt that lesson.

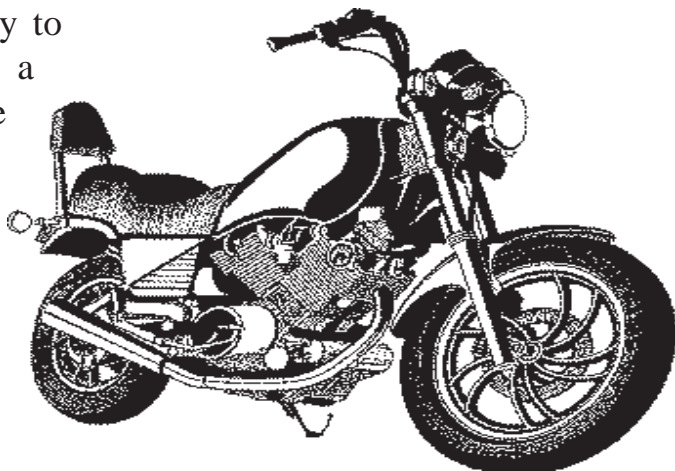
Darren always wanted to be the best at everything. At school he always wanted the teacher to tell him that his picture was best, or his composition was better than all



the other compositions. At home he always wanted Mum or Dad to tell him he was the best helper or the best at washing up or building lego or

something else. He always wanted to be better than his sister Jenny or his best friend Paul. In fact he liked to be better than everyone.

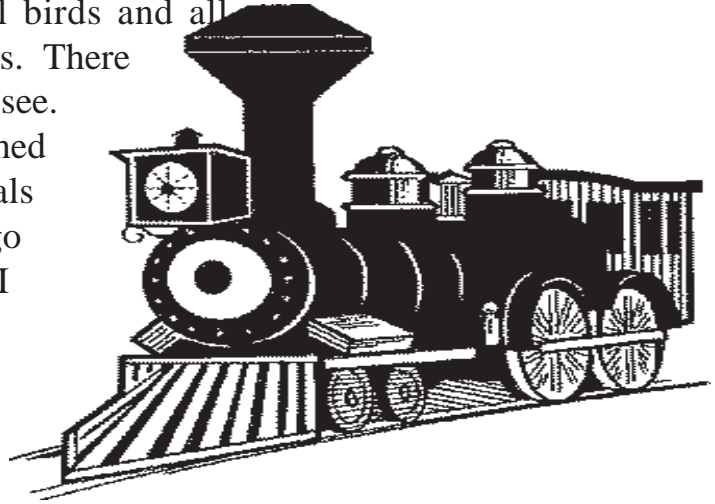
One day, Mummy and Daddy took Darren and Jenny to the zoo. They had a lovely day watching the monkeys playing, listening to the lions roar, watching the big Giraffe eating leaves. There was also the elephant with his long trunk and the striped Zebra, little penguins,



Wonderful!

big bears, colourful birds and all sorts of other animals. There was just so much to see.

When they had finished seeing all the animals and were ready to go home Daddy said, "I have a question to ask you Darren. Which is the best animal?" Darren was a bit



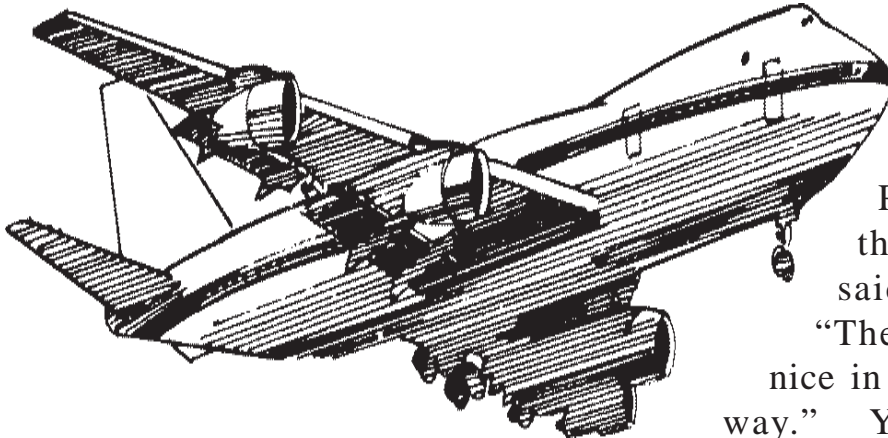
confused. "What do you mean, Daddy?" asked Darren. "Just what I said," replied Daddy, "Which animal is the best?" "I don't know,"

said Darren. "I like them all. They are all good in their own way." "Yes, that's true, isn't it?" said Daddy, "All are interesting."



When they arrived home Mummy said, "Let's go and have a look at the garden. We should enjoy it, especially since it's spring time and all the flowers are coming out. Look at all these beautiful flowers, which one do

you think is best Darren?" asked Mummy. Darren looked at all the beautiful flowers. He looked at the yellow daffodils, the sweet smelling roses, the climbing sweet peas, the tiny ones with lots of colours, and he didn't know their names, and he looked at the one



l i k e
kangaroo's
f e e t
c a l l e d
Kangaroo
Paw. "I like
them all,"
said Darren.

"They are all
nice in their own
way." Yes," said

Mummy and Daddy

together, "They are all pretty and beautiful, aren't they." Mother continued, "Do you see Darren, you always want to be the best, but don't you see that everyone is good in their own way. We should all try to do our best but we must be happy for others too. Just like all the animals and all the flowers are different and all special in their own way, it is just the same with people.

"I see what you mean," said Darren. Darren thought about this for a long time. From that day on Darren tried to do his best, but stopped trying to always be better than everyone else. He found it made him happier, his best friend Paul was happier and everyone was happier.

You see children, God has made each of us special in our own way and we should be happy with ourselves and not compete with others. Just try to do your best and that is all that counts. When others are good at things we can be happy for them too. This will make everyone happy. How about trying this yourself. Be happy for others when they do well and see if this makes you happy too.

Darren and his family travelled to the zoo. How do you think they got there? Throughout the story are pictures of various types of transport they may have used.📖

Puzzle Page

“Peter’s Confession”

Matthew 16:13-20

Use the International Morse Code to decipher Peter’s confession about Jesus.

International Morse Code				
a ·-	b -···	c -·-·	d -··	e ·
f ····	g --·	h ····	i ··	j ·-··
k -·-	l ····	m --	n -·	o ---
p ····	q --·-	r ··	s ···	t -
u ··-	v ····	w ---	x -···	y -···
	z ---·			

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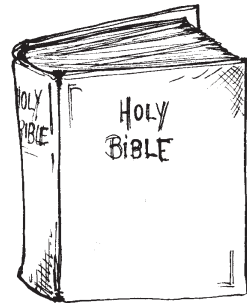
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Debug Your Bible:

Redemption



In this article we are going to look at what redemption is and what it means for Christians but in looking at the word we must also look at the cultures that the Old and New Testament were written in. Today redemption/redeem is hardly used other than as a Biblical/Christian word compared to the times when the books making up the Bible were written. The main use of the word in the secular world is in association with Pawn Shops and the redemption of goods sold to him (pawned) when the

owner has fallen on hard times. The owner retains ownership of his goods, within a specified period, and pays an amount of interest per month or week for the goods being in the Pawn Shop. Unfortunately if he doesn't redeem his goods within the specified time, the Pawn Shop owns them and can do with them what they want. As you will see this modern day secular understanding of redemption is far removed from what was originally intended by the Biblical writers.

There are several Greek words that mean "to purchase or redeem". The orthodox theological teaching is that at the Cross God paid a ransom price to buy sinners from the slave market of sin.

Agorazo comes from the Greek word for market (*agora*) and is used thirty times in the NT, usually of simple buying. Three times in the KJV the word has the theological meaning "redeem", including the well known text, "Thou (the Lamb)...*hast redeemed us to God by thy blood*" Revelation 5:9.

Exagorazo is a strengthened form of the above, occurring four times, always translated "redeem". Twice it has the idea of Christ's redeeming us "from the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13) and from "under the law" (Galatians 4:5).

Lutroo is a verb occurring three times in the NT and is also translated "redeem". More specifically it means "to set at liberty" upon receipt of a ransom (*lutron*). Peter tells us that the price was the precious blood of Christ (1st Peter 1:18,19). Paul says that the purpose of the ransom was to "redeem us from all iniquity" to be His own special people (Titus 2:14).

"*Lutron* is the noun for "ransom". In two parallel passages Christ says the reason He came was "to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:34).

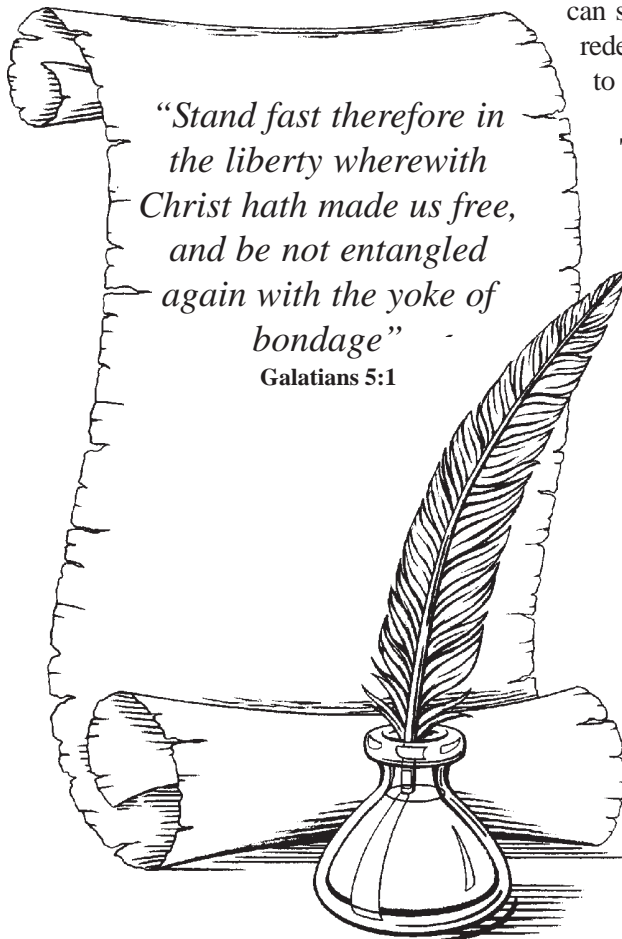
Antilutron is a strengthened form of *lutron*. The prefix *anti* emphasises Christ's taking our place (1st Timothy 2:6)

Lutrosis occurs three times and is yet another word for "redemption". Hebrews 9:12 uses it to express redemption of transgressions under the old covenant to make way for the new. (The New Open Bible, KJV, Study Version.)

The Greek Understanding – The New Testament

The Bible is full of word pictures created to give readers and listeners a greater connection and affiliation with what was being said. In New Testament times the concept of redemption was an everyday thing in the world where slavery was a part of most people's lifestyle – you either had slaves or were a slave. These slaves were largely acquired as a byproduct of wars and the acquisition of prisoners of war was one of the spoils of war – throughout the ages nations have constantly had wars between each other as one acquires more land and wealth than the other. These prisoners of war

would be taken back to the victors' country, and sold as slaves to the highest bidders, thereby lining the pockets of the victors. Sometimes, though, highborn prisoners were taken, and when this was discovered it was more advantageous for the winning side to sell this prisoner back to his homeland because he was worth a lot of money. Not only that these prisoners would not make very good working slaves – they were highborn, used to a luxury lifestyle – no, their value came in how much their families were prepared to pay for them **to return home**. Here we find the concept of redemption whereby family members pay a 'ransom' for the redemption of their loved one who has been taken captive by an enemy. Thus we can say that the Greek understanding of redemption meant the paying of a **price** to secure release.



The Hebrew/Old Testament Understanding

Not only does it help for readers to have an understanding of the Greek background of the New Testament to have some understanding of redemption, but also an understanding of the Israelite understanding of redemption as outlined in the Old Testament. In the Hebrew language there are 2 words used for the redemption/redeem word group. The first is *gaal* (*g'l*) which conveys with it the concept of family or to act as a kinsman, i.e., this usage can be seen in the book of Ruth (Ruth 4:1-12), wherein the responsibility for Ruth fell to one of her kinsmen (Leviticus 25:48-49). It is also demonstrated in many of the Levitical laws, i.e.,

wherein a man dies without offspring, his widow is to marry one of his brothers and name the firstborn son after the deceased, therein securing the perpetuity of his family line (Deuteronomy 25:5-6), with many other examples.

The other Hebrew word used for redemption in the Old Testament is *padah* (*pdh*), which is different to *gaal* in that there is no familial obligation attached. *“Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand”* Nehemiah 1:10. *“They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy. How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan”* Psalm 78:42-43. The idea of cost is present as with *gaal*, God’s deliverance (“*his hand*”) is at a cost, but with *padah* there is no sense of obligation to redeem as with *gaal*, but this only serves to highlight the fact that God redeems His people through grace and love, not duty and obligation.

The Israelite concept of redemption and the Greek concept of redemption are slightly different – in the Old Testament there was not, as a consequence of redemption, a ransom necessarily paid, but in the New Testament the concept of redemption required the payment of a ransom to secure release.

Looking at how the 2 worlds understood the concept of redemption we can now understand in more depth why that word picture would have had so much impact and be so poignant to those hearing the message.

What is in Need of Redemption?

So, what is humankind in need of redemption for? What is it we need to have redeemed? In the beginning, Adam and Eve made a conscious decision to depart from God’s instruction and follow their own will – they sinned - they left the secure

relationship they had with their Creator. As a result of this decision death entered the arena and mankind, instead of living eternally (having immortal lives), became mortal and henceforth death has been the payment for that sin. *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return”* Genesis 3:19. Now man has become a slave – a slave to sin. John 8:33-34, *“They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”* And Paul in Romans 6:20-23 displays that those who come to know Christ and develop a relationship with their Creator, through Christ experience the freedom only available through Him, *“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”*. So once someone has entered into a relationship with Christ (become a Christian) they are then shown through various mechanisms (Bible study, prayer, the heart) how to live a righteous life, thereby making themselves servants/slaves to God rather than servants/slaves to sin and Satan.

Believers become servants to God, rather than Satan, when they acknowledge and accept in their spirit, soul and body that Jesus Christ is their Saviour and Redeemer. So this thereby assists the soul, but what about the body? We know from the Scriptures that man has three parts, spirit, soul and body, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was for the

Remember the parable of the rich man?

“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: bur if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” Luke 16:19-31

redemption of mankind, but what was His body the ransom price for?

We understand the blood of Jesus was shed on the cross for the sins of all mankind, so through Jesus’ blood all sinners are forgiven when they accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Judgement Day, though, they will still have to take responsibility for those sins and the choices the soul helped the body to make, and the consequences of those choices. So we can say in summary that the blood of Jesus was shed for the manumission of sins.

So if Jesus’ blood was the price for soul salvation, His body must by logical argument have been the ransom price for the salvation of the body.

- The **spirit** goes back to God who gave it - *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”* Ecclesiastes 12:7.
- The **soul** lies in the grave/darkness, either at peace or thinking about the sins done in the body.
- The **body** goes to dust and is destroyed. *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”* Psalm 16:10. *“The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness”* Isaiah 57:1,2.

Man was originally made to be immortal, but due to pride and thinking they could be as God, mankind fell and lost the body as a consequence of his own sin and thus lost the immortality that he had had in the beginning. Redemption then must mean that it pertains to the redeeming of the body, because the other 2 aspects of


man, the spirit and the soul, are accounted for, they are not lost. The loss of the body was the consequence of the fall and the death of Jesus Christ (the death of His physical body) was the ransom paid for the redemption of the bodies of all mankind, whether they believe in a changed spiritual body, and, as with Christian Israel, the redemption of the physical bodies (the 144,000 elect of God).

Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*” This passage underscores the fact that Jesus came as a servant, the humblest of all beings, to give his life for the sins of all mankind, throughout all millennia. But the fulfillment of this act of redemption will not come until Jesus Christ returns as outlined in Luke 21:27-28, *“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”*

The price was paid in full on the cross for mankind’s redemption, but only when Jesus Christ returns will this redemption come into its fullness. What is this fullness? The New Testament tells us clearly enough that we will regain what we lost when Adam and Eve consciously made their decision to disobey God’s command and thus damaged not just their relationship with their Creator, but lost their bodies to death. We are told that this body will be redeemed and that the price has already been paid for that redemption - we just have to wait for its fulfillment, Romans 8:23, *“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit,*

the redemption of the body.”

And the price was not a small one, the cost to Jesus was his life and to die in the most humiliating and painful of ways. 1st Corinthians 6:19-20, *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

When you look at these passages and the concept of redemption, you cannot fail to see a central theme running through from the Old and New Testaments with regards the reconciliation of the Creator with His creation, God with mankind. All God’s children are part of His family and He wants to bring us all home to him, that is why the Scriptures tell us that *“all will be saved”* it is just that some might go through different processes than others. In the Hebrew usage of the word, the concept of family unity is stressed and reinforced, and when looked at globally, reinforces that we are all part of God’s family and He wants to redeem all of us. He just wants us to come into relationship with Him, accept His Son as our Saviour, and look to the male Spirit (Christ), the female Spirit (Jerusalem Above) and Jehovah to keep our focus God-ward and humble ourselves with the knowledge that Jesus Christ has given us far more than we could ever give back. At the basis of the whole concept of redemption is one word, Grace, and through that alone does the possibility of redemption even exist. Revelation 5:9-10, *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”* 

Statement of Belief

The Christian Israelite Church beliefs can be fully supported by the Scriptures. Here is an outline:

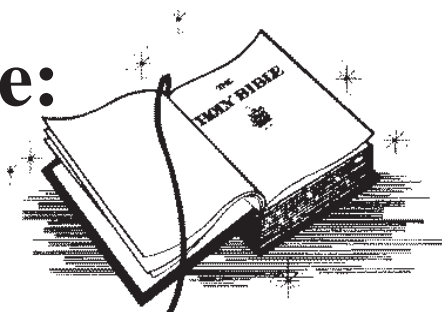
We Believe

- * In God Almighty creator of all things (Genesis 1:1).
- * In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed (James 2:19; Ezekiel 28:14,15).
- * That God created a spirit-existence in which the devil manifested evil and caused some of the spirits to rebel against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6).
- * That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the spiritual creation (Luke 9:55; Genesis 2:7).
- * That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were *"for their good always"* (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- * That all have sinned and come *"short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23; 2nd Corinthians 5:19).
- * That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:16,17).
- * That through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus believers are counted as righteous before God, and can be assured of the resurrection of their souls (a Spiritual body) at Jesus' return (1st Timothy 4:10; 1st Corinthians 15:44).
- * That there will be a small number who will fully prove their faith by a work of true obedience to God's instructions and will thereby receive the prize of the highest calling of God, the redemption of spirit and soul and body - this living mortal Body made Immortal without seeing death (1st Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:1-5; Hebrews 11:39,40).
- * That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever (Revelation 19, 20).
- * That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days (Matthew 24; Mark 13 and Luke 21).
- * That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people (1st Peter 2:9).
- * That although Israel of old did not accept the challenge of spiritually being God's peculiar people, a remnant of their descendants will come forward in the latter days to fulfill the obligations and receive the promises (Revelation 7:1-8).
- * That the Mission of the Christian Israelite Church is to awaken the lost ten tribes of Israel to this special inheritance to be the physical Immortal "Bride of the Lamb" and to be the vehicle for the task of bringing them all together at God's appointed time (Matthew 10:5,6; Revelation 19).

We believe that God is the absolute Judge and Arbiter and that we as His servants have an obligation to respond to what He puts in each heart, and that whilst we seek to proclaim and discuss our beliefs, we have no right to contend with other people about them.

Expand Your Bible:

The Tree Climber



Are you a tall person?

When you are in a crowd anywhere, can you easily see because of your height, or do you find that wherever you look all you can see are backs or heads of those around you?

I am on the short side and need to either be in the front or in an elevated position to see much of what is going on, so I can sympathise completely with Zaccheus whose story is told in the Gospel of St. Luke.

Zaccheus was a rich man. He was a tax collector under the Roman rule of his country. He lived in Jericho, a city on a major trade route, and either by fair means or by cheating he had become very rich. The people considered him 'as a man who is a sinner' because of the way he gained his wealth and his rich style of living. It would appear that the tax collector was no more popular then than now!

Apparently Zaccheus had heard of Jesus and was very curious to see this prophet and perhaps even hear some of his words. We read in Luke that he sought to see Jesus, who He was and could not for the press, because he was little of stature'.

Zaccheus threw his dignity aside and racing ahead of the crowd he climbed up into a sycamore tree – a tree with wide spreading branches – and from this vantage point he could easily see Jesus as He passed underneath.

But! What happened? Instead of passing along underneath the tree as Zaccheus had imagined Jesus stopped, looked up into the tree and quite casually said, "Zaccheus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide at thy house."

Zaccheus must have been surprised for how could Jesus have known he was there, but he was delighted and came down quickly and we read 'received him joyfully'.

The crowd weren't so happy though and couldn't believe that Jesus would desert them and go to the house of a sinner such as Zaccheus.

Jesus, however, could see the good that was in Zaccheus, just as He does in all of us, and He wanted to bring this out.

They obviously talked over the meal they shared. What they talked about we are not told. There is no mention in the biblical account of the story of Salvation being the topic but it is obvious that Jesus' words must have touched Zaccheus' conscience and he began to think that many of his dealings had been

The parable regarding Zaccheus is only recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Interestingly the name Zaccheus means in Hebrew 'pure' which is a little ironic for a tax-collector.

rather shady and not in line with Jesus' teachings. He recognized his sin and immediately wanted to make retribution to those he had wronged. Zaccheus must have decided that Jesus was indeed the teacher he was reputed to be.

Suddenly, Zaccheus stood up and said, "Behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation I restore him fourfold". This repayment of fourfold restoration was the Old Testament restitution for theft, so it would seem that Zaccheus had some knowledge of Jewish teachings.

What a change in Zaccheus' attitude after listening to Jesus – he recognized Him as the Saviour.


Jesus' reply to Zaccheus was one of hope and love, "This day is salvation come to this house foreshomuch as he also is a son of Abraham."

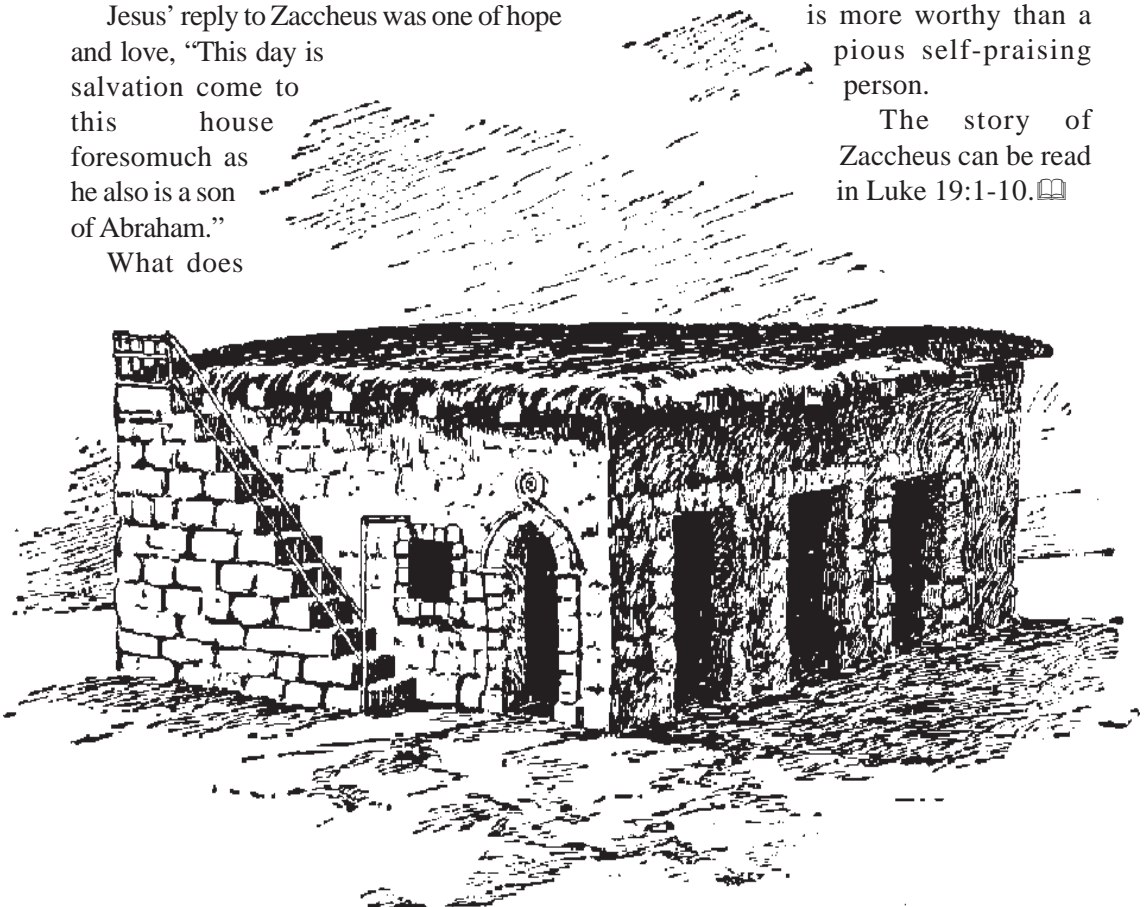
What does

this tell us about salvation?

It is open to all who accept Jesus as their Saviour and Guide. It is not limited to a certain type of person but can be gained by rich and poor, high and low, sick and well, old and young – in fact by anybody who desires to be saved. Salvation is immediate. There is no waiting or testing time. The outcome of acceptance is obvious as it was in the case of Zaccheus. He wanted to show his love by his actions.

Luke completes the account of this incident with the words of Jesus, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost", endorsing Luke's theme that the sinner who displays a penitent attitude is more worthy than a pious self-praising person.

The story of Zaccheus can be read in Luke 19:1-10. 



Vegetarian Recipes

Curried Lentils

250g red lentils	1 large green chilli, seeded and finely chopped
2 cups vegetable stock	2tsps ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon turmeric	2tsps ground coriander
50g ghee	2 tomatoes, diced
1 medium onion, diced	1/2 cup coconut milk
2 garlic cloves, diced finely	

Rinse the lentils and drain well until the water is clear with no milkiness. Place into a heavy pan the lentils, vegetable stock and turmeric. Bring to the boil, reduce and simmer for approx 10 minutes, or till tender. You must stir occasionally to make sure the mixture doesn't stick to the pan and burn.

Heat the ghee in a frying pan and add the finely diced onion. Cook till clear then add garlic, chilli, coriander and cumin. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the spices become aromatic. Add the onion and spices mixture to the lentil mixture and then add the tomatoes. Simmer gently over a low heat for about 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper then add the coconut milk - stir through. Best served with boiled rice and naan bread or pappadams.

Spanish Omelette

500g potatoes, cut into 1cm cubes	7 eggs, beaten
salt	2 tblspns finely chopped parsley
175g fresh green beans	1/2 tspn sweet paprika
2tblspns vegetable/olive oil	freshly ground black pepper
1 onion, chopped	extra chopped parsley for garnish
1 red pepper, deseeded & diced	

Bring a pot of boiling salted water to the boil, add potatoes and cook for 5 minutes (don't cook till they are mushy). Drain, refresh in cold water and drain again. Put to the side in a bowl. Cook the green beans in a pan of salted boiling water for about 8 minutes. Frozen beans you cook for about 5 minutes. Drain, and, as with the potatoes, refresh in cold water and drain again. Cut the beans into 2.5cm lengths.

Heat oil in a large frying pan, add onion and red pepper and cook gently for around 5 minutes. Remove the onion and pepper from the pan and place the oil back into the pan and add the onion and pepper to the potatoes and beans mixture. Add beaten eggs, parsley and sweet paprika to the vegetables in the bowl and stir lightly. Season with salt and pepper.

Reheat oil in the pan over a low heat and pour in the omelette mix. Level out the mixture and leave to cook very gently for 15-20 minutes, until the bottom is set, but the top creamy. Now heat the grill to high. Place the frying pan under the grill on the lowest position until the top of the omelette is light golden. Loosen the omelette from the pan and slide onto a large plate. Sprinkle with parsley and leave to cool. Cut into wedges and serve with salad.