

REDEEMING THE TIME “Eternal Redemption”

Introduction

- Great Is the Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. KJV¹

We should not try to minimize how great this mystery really is. I suspect that only in the full presence of His face shall we know the greatness of His love toward us which He displayed in redeeming us from death! God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory! Hallelujah, that's the Gospel!

- Eternal Redemption

Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, **having obtained eternal redemption for us.**

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

He obtained an eternal redemption of us. Eternity being boundless time, He hath redeemed all that is within time for us.

- Space-time and Life in Multiple Realms

John 3:12-13

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Just when we think we know “that old, old story,” Jesus lets us know that there's more to the tale than meets the eye! In verse 13, while standing on earth and speaking to Nicodemus, He declares that He has already ascended and is in heaven. God was manifest in the flesh. It is not only in His sinless humanity that the story of redemption is accomplished, but in the power of His divinity.

¹ All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Ps 49:4-9

4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will disclose my dark saying on the harp.
5 Why should I fear in the days of evil, When the iniquity at my heels surrounds me?
6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches,
7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him
8 For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever —
9 That he should continue to live eternally, And not see the Pit. NKJV

Mere man cannot ransom the soul of another that it should not see the grave and live forever. The Lord God, He is our Redeemer. Amen?

We are going to examine this great mystery of godliness, but not in presumption. These truths stand like precious jewels that we dare not tarnish with the touch of arrogant intellectualism. Let us beseech the Lord that He would open our minds that we might understand the wonders of His grace poured out on us from the Cross (Luke 24:44-48)!

I. The Incarnation

1. The Eternal Covenant

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through **the blood of the everlasting covenant**,
21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

The blood of Jesus Christ is the blood of the everlasting covenant. This was a covenant cut between the Persons of the Godhead before time as we know it began.

Hebrews 10:5-7

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:
6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.
7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

“Lo, I come to do they will, O God.” This He declared when He came into the world. The body prepared for Him was that of the egg in the womb of Mary.

1 Peter 1:18-20

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
20 Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,

He was foreordained before the foundation (katabole – casting down) of the world (kosmos – ordered universe). Before the ordered universe created in Genesis 1:1 was cast down and became what we see in Genesis 1:2, the Lamb was foreordained to redeem us in these last times.

2. The Form of a Servant

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He humbled Himself and took upon Him the form of a servant, the form of a man.

Luke 1:30-35

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Eccl 11:5

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Even with all the information we have with regard to genetics and biology, science is still very unsure as to why things take the form they do. The field is called morphogenesis and its investigation into primary, fetal forms has more conjecture than cosmology!

3. The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Consider how wondrous it is that He who was Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent became by the decision of His eternal will localized, limited, and subject to exhaustion!

II. The Purchase Price

1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

He was the payment for our sins. What is the cost of sin? What is the penalty of not being redeemed?

1. The Wages of Sin

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The wages of sin has always been death. This is what God told Adam in the garden.

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The question this begs is: what is death? It is more than just life leaving the body.

2. The Reality of Hell

A. Hades

Luke 16:19-31

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 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;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 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.

25 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.

26 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.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Jesus never calls this story a parable. Now, it may very well be one. But that being the case, as in all parables, the constituent facts are true to reality. Jesus described Hades as a place of burning torment.

B. Gehenna

Matthew 5:29-30

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body **should be cast into hell.**

This hell isn't Hades, but Gehenna – it's like maximum security versus general population! Jesus tells us clear that there is nothing in hell we should desire.

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Note that He says they cannot kill the soul, but that God can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna. This tells us that there will be a time when people are cast bodily into the burning lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

C. Tartarus

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

This hell is Tartarus, a place as far below Hades as the earth is below Heaven.² It is also referred to as the deep, or the abyss.

Revelation 20:1-3

- 1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
- 3 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.

Geographically, there is only one place in earth where one can have a bottomless pit and that is at its center. Because the center of earth's gravity well is at its center, all directions from it are "up." Thus, if one were bound there, no "down" or bottom would be possible.³

3. The Duration of the Punishment

Revelation 14:11

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 20:10, 15

- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The price for sin is nothing less than eternal damnation. This is the price that Christ paid for us.

III. Worthy Is the Lamb

1. One Sacrifice for All Time

A. One sacrifice

Hebrews 10:12-17

- 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.
- 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
- 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,
- 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;
- 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

² For more on Tartarus, see our audio resource "The Nephilim".

³ I owe this insight to Chuck Misler.

*“Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” What a tremendous promise!
All sin for all time was paid for at once in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.*

B. From the casting down

Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world.**

This verse puts the time of the sacrifice as “before the casting down of the universe.”

C. To the end of the age

Hebrews 9:26

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews tells us that the sacrifice happened “in the end of the world.” The sacrifice of the Son was an eternal event and touched all peoples of all time frames.

Revelation 5:1-6

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

“As it had been slain,” this verb in the Greek is in the perfect tense. The results of previous action are seen concurrent with the statement. In other words, what John saw was Christ crucified! Spahzo, the word translated “slain”, is a violent word meaning “butchered.”

Isa 52:14 NIV

Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness —

In the Spirit, in heaven, on the Lord’s Day, the payment for the sins of mankind are still clearly evident on the Lamb who stands in the midst of the throne and the elders!

2. Redemption in Three Realms

Rom 10:6-7

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart,

Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

These verses are a quotation of Deuteronomy 30:11-14 and are an introduction to one of the most concise formulas for salvation (verses 9-10). We are going to examine the clauses in reverse order.

A. Who shall descend?

i. Spirit

1 Peter 3:18-20

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

19 By which also he went and **preached unto the spirits in prison**;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

In the Spirit, He went to Tartarus and preached to the angels who left their first estate and tried to foil the entire plan of redemption.

ii. Soul

1 Peter 4:5-6

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

In His soul, He went to Hades and preached to those who had not heard, leaving them no excuse.

Acts 2:24-31

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, **that his soul was not left in hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption.

His soul was not left in hell, but was raised up.

iii. Body

His body was laid in the earth (which He redeemed to reign).

Matthew 27:59-60

59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

His body paid the price for the curse on the ground brought about by Adam's sin.

Genesis 3:17-18

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

See also Genesis 4:10-11.

B. Who shall ascend?

i. Risen from the grave

Matthew 28:6

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

ii. Triumphed over principalities

Colossians 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

On His journey up, He evidenced the dispossession of the principalities in heavenly places.

iii. Serving and Reigning in Heaven

Hebrews 9:11-12, 22-26

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

In the power of an endless life, He serves in the true sanctuary in heaven.

3. The Alpha and Omega

Revelation 1:8, 18

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

He is the Alpha and Omega. His sacrifice affected all realms and all times!

Conclusion

Ephesians 1:21

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Surely He hath triumphed over all and shown Himself worthy in redemption!

Philippians 2:9-13

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Let every knee bow to the exalted King, The Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the Ages!