



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

# Short Study 051: Redemption

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**Read: Genesis** 1:26, Psalm 24:1-2, Ephesians 1:7.

**Introduction.** The dictionary definition of the word *redeem* states this: 'to recover possession or ownership of by payment of a price'. It also gives the Christian context of this word, 'a deliverance from sin through the incarnation, sufferings, and death of Christ on the Cross.'

**1. The Need for Redemption.** The Bible teaches us that God made us in His image (Gen 1:27). God made us, so we belong to Him. He could not have redeemed us unless we already belonged to Him in the first place. The relationship between the first man and woman and God was broken when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and gave into the temptation to eat forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-13).

From the moment they sinned, man and woman were separated from God and no longer enjoyed a trouble and pain free life, and it has been so ever since. Where in Genesis, Chapter 3 can man's separation from God be seen? What result of the separation is revealed in Isaiah 59:1-2?

**2. God's Plan for Redemption.** All through the Bible, God's plan of redemption unfolds - His plan to bring people back into relationship with Himself and to save us from eternal separation from Him. The Old Testament charts the progress of God making Himself known to His chosen people as a holy God, Who taught them what holiness is. He gave them a number of laws to live by, but laws in themselves could not restore them to relationship with God. Why not? (See Rom 3:20, Rom 8:3.)

All the laws the people were instructed to live by were very important as they emphasised the seriousness of sin in God's sight and pointed to the need of a sacrifice; so God commanded particular sacrifices be made to deal with unholiness, or sin. Of greatest importance to make amends for sin were sacrifices that required the shedding of blood (read Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22-23). What did these sacrifices represent (see 1 Peter 1:19).

Romans 3:23 tells us that, 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'. This is why human beings cannot save themselves. The sacrifice has to be perfect before God. So God came Himself, and paid the price for our sin so that we could be restored to a relationship with Him (read 2 Cor 5:18).

**To think about:** Read 1 Peter 1:18-19, Hebrews 9:12, Revelation 1:18. Why is it so important that we are not redeemed by something that is perishable?

**To dig deeper:** Read Hebrews 10:1-25 for the full picture of our redemption through Jesus Christ our Saviour.