

Recap of last week's study:

Faithfulness in the Wilderness Leads to Rest

Psalm 95:7-11; Hebrews 3:12-19, 4:1-11

- True rest is available for those who learn to trust God enough to follow his instruction and embrace his way of life.
- What can we learn from Israel's journey in the wilderness to help us enter the deep, true rest God offers?

Study Theme Overview: Redemption

What Does Redemption Mean in the Bible?

- In the Bible, redemption often involves restoring people to their family or transferring possessions back to their rightful owner.
- Biblical authors also use redemption more broadly to describe liberating people from situations of distress or death.

The Meaning of Redemption

Christians sometimes say, “I’ve been redeemed by the blood of the lamb!”

- But what does that mean?
- Many times as Christians we find ourselves in situations where we have to explain what the Bible says about redemption.
- The Bible also talks about how *people* can be redeemed.
- The story of the Bible’s beginning starts with the idea that all creation, and especially humanity, belongs to God.

he Blood of the Lamb

When people talk about being redeemed by “the blood of the lamb,” that alludes to a story from the Exodus account.

God sends one final plague to show that all life, not just Israel, belongs to him.

The Blood of the Lamb (continued)

- The lamb, uncorrupted by evil or death, represents a life belonging totally to God.
 - Death has no rightful claim to it.
 - When the lamb gives up its life, it opens up a way back to life with God.
 - The lamb's blood on the doorframe is a symbol of this flawless life that has been given for others.
- On the night of Passover, God liberates humanity from death.
 - The next day, Pharaoh releases his claim on Israel, so God liberates them from slavery.
 - Liberation is central to what redemption means in the rest of the Bible.

The Slavery of All Humanity

- And this redemption is for a purpose.
 - God redeems the people of Israel to restore a relationship and represent his character to every nation and family on earth.
 - But Israel's story turns tragic as they, along with all humanity, become enslaved to their corrupt desires and the deadly violence that results.
 - Instead of living in freedom, Israel remains claimed by death.
- So, when Jesus comes, he announces the arrival of God's redemption from death for all humanity.
 - He leads a life fully dedicated to loving God and loving others, freeing them from sickness and death.
 - Then, Jesus goes to Jerusalem on Passover weekend to confront the power of death itself, knowing that the city leaders will decide to kill him.

The Slavery of All Humanity (Continued)

- Jesus is blameless, so they have no right to claim his life.
 - But in an act of generous love, Jesus surrenders his life for others.
 - When he rises from the dead, it all becomes clear: Jesus is God's ultimate counter-claim against death.
 - The life of Jesus, represented by his blood, is a covering for anyone who takes refuge in him.
 - Death cannot claim Jesus, and it ultimately cannot claim anyone who belongs to him.
- So being “redeemed by the blood of the lamb” means that because of Jesus' life, a person is reclaimed by God into freedom and a kind of life that's beyond the power of death.

Reflect

- What does the practice of people redeeming family members in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) tell us about what it means for God to redeem people?
- How does God redeem the Israelites from slavery in Egypt?
- For what purpose does God redeem people?

Summer Deep Dive

So far, we've just skimmed the surface.

- Over the course of the summer, we're going to take a condensed deeper dive into how the theme of redemption contributes to the whole story of the Bible.

June 4th

July 9th

August 6th

September 3rd: Resume regular weekly schedule with a new study theme: The Holy Spirit.

Redemption From Enslavement (6/4)

Exodus 6:2-8; Deuteronomy 7:7-11

Redemption of the Firstborn (6/4)

Exodus 13:1-16; Numbers 3:44-48

Redemption of Land and Enslaved Relatives (6/4)

Leviticus 25:23-28, 47-55

Redemption of Blood (7/9)

Numbers 35:9-28

Boaz' Redemption of Naomi's Land and Restoration of Ruth (7/9)

Ruth 4:1-12

Redemption From Distress or Death (7/9)

1 Samuel 14:24-28, 43-45; Psalms 49:7-9, 14-15; 55:16-19

Redemption From Exile (8/6)

Isaiah 43:1-7, 44:21-23, 48:20-21, 51:9-11

Redemption Anticipated Through Jesus (8/6)

Luke 1:67-75, 2:36-38; Mark 10:42-45

Redemption Accomplished Through Jesus (8/6)

Romans 3:21-24; 1 Peter 1:13-21; Hebrews 9:11-15

Regular weekly Sr. Adult Bible Study will resume on 9/3

- **Next Study Theme: The Holy Spirit**

Source:

[What Is Redemption in the Bible? | Free Resource Guide](#)