

# Redemption

**Thesis:** Jesus is the climax of God’s restoration project, restoring us to the Father and providing us hope for eternal life through His life, death, and resurrection.

**Big Question:** How does Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection restore our relationship with the Father and defeat Satan?

**Scripture:** Various — see headers for references

## Introduction

My dad has been remodeling homes for years

- Over the years, he has bought, remodeled, and either sold or kept to rent a number of homes.

Most of the homes he has restored have not begun in the best shape.

- For a time, when he finished remodeling a home, he would say, “I am not going to remodel a home that needs that much work again.”
- But it seemed like every time he bought a new home to work on, it was in worse shape than the last one.
  - And I would always say, “Dad, I thought you told me you weren’t going to buy a home that needed a lot of work. Here you have bought a home worse than the last one.”

While those homes started in a bad condition, after he finished they looked almost unrecognizable from the one he had bought.

- My dad is a master carpenter who can remodel and restore almost anything.

**But for all the skills he has developed over the years, there is at least one carpenter who is greater.**

- There is one carpenter who not only built and probably remodeled homes in his day, but He also and more importantly is working to restore this entire world.

In order to get to this carpenter and understand His restoration project, we have taken a long journey from the East of Eden.

- A journey that has led us to the climax of God’s restoration project.

The climax, the center of the biblical story is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- Jesus is the center because He is the promised seed from Genesis 3:15 and from the line of Abraham. He is the king who will sit on David’s throne forever and ever.
  - He is one who deals a death blow to Satan and ultimately restores our relationship with the Father and eventually this entire world.
    - Jesus is the ultimate carpenter of the ultimate restoration project.

### **How does Jesus restore everything?**

- How does He restore our relationship with the Father?
  - How does He eventually restore this entire world?
    - How does this lowly and humble carpenter deal a death blow to Satan?

To answer those questions, we'll begin with Jesus' life. We learn that:

### **I. By Jesus' perfect life He fulfills the vocation of kingly priest (vs. Gen 12:3; Matt. 4:1; Rom 5:12;14; Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 15:45)**

If you remember, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be greater than the stars of heaven and that He would make him a blessing to the nations.

- The last phrase in Genesis 12:3 reads,

*"...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* (Gen 12:3c)

Reading that verse, it is not immediately apparent how that is going to happen.

- But as you work through biblical history, you recognize

#### **A. RESTORATION WILL NOT OCCUR THROUGH THE NATION OF ISRAEL.**

- Both the nation and the kings who came to rule it, did not and could not put an end to the curse.
  - They couldn't restore the world back to the garden of Eden.
    - Nor could they act as a light to the nations as God declared they must.
      - They failed at every point, eventually being exiled from the Promised Land because they were so wicked.

While that is terrible, none of it is surprising.

- The Israelites live under the curse of sin.
  - Listen to what Paul says about the curse in Romans 5:12,

*"...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned"* (Ro 5:12).

The curse brings sin and with it death.

- Not only spiritual death, but physical death.
  - Spiritual and physical death you can't escape, because you are born of Adam.

**Transition:** But:

B. JESUS IS ABLE TO BRING ABOUT RESTORATION BECAUSE HE WAS SINLESS AND NOT DESERVING OF DEATH.

- The reasons He was able to escape the curse was because **He was born without an earthly father.**
- In the gospel accounts, we learn that Jesus was born of a virgin.
  - In a miraculous act, Mary conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit in her life.
  - Jesus, then, doesn't have Adam as His federal head — Adam is not Jesus' representative, which allowed Him to be perfect.
  - Luke picks up on this and says in Luke 1:35,

*"And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." (Lk 1:35)*

Since the Spirit brought about conception, Jesus was holy.

- He was without blemish.
- This doesn't mean to imply sin comes through the father, rather it means that sin comes down to us through the unbroken line of Adam because **Adam is our federal head.** He is our representative.
- But in this one case, the representation of Adam was broken because God intervened.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus was born sinless, and continued that way throughout His life.

- That doesn't mean He wasn't tempted.
- He was tempted.
  - After Jesus was baptized and before He officially began His ministry, He was driven into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan.

Starting in verse 1 of Matthew 4 we read,

*"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." (Matt. 4:1)*

As you work through Matthew 4, you learn Satan tempted Jesus three times.

- First with **bread** to take care of His hunger.
- Second with a **fall** from the top of the Temple that would've resulted in Him testing the Father.
- And finally with the **promise** of **power.**
  
- But Jesus didn't give in.
  - Instead He remained faithful to God, not sinning against Him.

---

<sup>1</sup> Grudem, Systematic 529-32

**Its Jesus' faithfulness that allows Him to be the perfect carpenter — the true Adam and the true Israel.**

- He did what they couldn't do in life, He acted as the perfect little "k" king and priest.
  - He recognized the Father's rightful place to reign and rule.
    - He was fruitful and multiplied, not by giving us physical descendants but spiritual.
      - He sought to cultivate and push back the darkness in this world — through His preaching, teaching, and physical ministry.
        - And as Jesus' spiritual disciples reproduce themselves by making disciples of every people and nation, He fulfills the mandate given to the first Adam — to be fruitful and multiple, seeking to subdue this world as God's representatives, bringing God glory.
- The **result** is that Jesus acts a light to the nation as Israel was supposed to do but failed.

**So Jesus, through His life, proves Himself to be the true Adam and the true Israel.**

- He fulfills the conditions of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenant — He is completely and utterly obedient.
  - He never sins against God.
    - He is the perfect carpenter.
      - He is the priestly king.
        - His life perfectly fulfills the biblical covenants.
          - **It is His perfect obedience that allows Him to usher in the New Covenant.**

**Transition:** In an upside down way, Jesus' sinless life leads to His death. As we turn to Jesus' death, we learn that:

**II. By Jesus' substitutionary death He satisfies the justice of the King (vs. Heb. 10:11-18)**

Satisfying the Father's justice is another crucial element in the story of redemption.

While Israel was God's chosen people, they were still unholy sinners just like us.

- Because they were unholy sinners,

A. ISRAEL HAD TO OFFER DAILY AND YEARLY SACRIFICES TO GOD IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

- They lived in rebellion to Him.
  - The price for their rebellion was death.
    - In order to continue to live in God's kingdom, something had to die in their place.
      - So the sacrificial system was born.

But there is a problem with the sacrificial system.

## What is the problem?

Hebrews 10:11 says,

*"And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins." (Heb 10:11)*

B. THE PROBLEM WITH THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM WAS THAT SACRIFICES COULD TEMPORARILY COVER SIN, BUT COULDN'T REMOVE SIN AND RESTORE THE BROKEN WORLD.

- **You can think of the sacrificial system like a good coat of paint painted on something rusty.**
  - It will cover up the rust for awhile, but if you don't deal with the rust, it will begin to show through at some point.
  - The same happens with our rebellion.
    - The blood of the sacrifices offered on behalf of the Israelites covered their sin, but because the sin in their heart wasn't ultimately dealt with, it would quickly show through again.
  - While the sacrificial system worked, it was imperfect.
  - That is the system Israel lived under for centuries.

**Transition:** But there is hope for restoration and ultimate justice.

- Let's continue in Hebrews 10.
- We will pick up in verse 12,

*But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin." (Heb 10:12–18)*

Jesus is our hope.

C. JESUS DOES WHAT THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM COULDN'T, HE OFFERS A ONCE AND FOR ALL SACRIFICE THAT SATISFIES THE JUSTICE OF THE KING AND USHERS IN THE NEW COVENANT

God is not just if He allows us to live in His kingdom without payment for sin.

- But Jesus comes, He lives a perfect life, He doesn't deserve death, He doesn't deserve to be kicked out of the kingdom.
- He does everything right.
  - As a result, He is able to give His life for ours.
  - He is able to act as our substitutionary sacrifice.
    - That is exactly what Jesus does — He dies in our place, so that He might restore us back to the King and provide us with entrance into God's kingdom.
- **It is His death that ushers in a New Covenant.**
  - A Covenant unlike the old.
    - A covenant that doesn't require daily and yearly sacrifices.
    - A covenant that isn't built around an external legal system.
      - Instead, it is a covenant built around Jesus' once and for all sacrifice for our sins.
- **Jesus is able to usher in the New Covenant because He fulfills all the covenants that came before.**
  - He is the true Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel, and Davidic King.
    - All of the covenants find their fulfillment in Jesus' life and death.
- In Jesus, we experience a restored relationship with Father because our sins have been finally and fully forgiven.

APPLICATION: How great is that?!?! How great it is to know that Jesus has dealt a death blow to our sins, so that they no longer affect our relationship with God.

- Jesus is the ultimate carpenter who restores our relationship with the Father through His substitutionary death.
  - Which means it is not about our work.
    - It is not about how much we do and don't do for the King.
- Certainly, faith without works is dead, but we must not believe that we somehow earn favor with God because of our works.
  - It is Jesus' death on our behalf that provides us a relationship with the Father.
    - To be Christian, we must rest in His substitutionary death on our behalf.
      - That is what we are profession as believers — that it is Jesus who does what we can't do.
        - He pays the penalty for our sins.
          - Because Jesus died in our place, we can be adopted into God's family.
            - He can be our Father and we can be His children.
              - How amazing is that?!?!?!
                - That's the gospel; that's the good news.

**Transition:** So far we have talked about how Jesus' life and death play a part in this restoration project. Now we need to talk about Jesus' resurrection. We learn that:

### **III. By Jesus' resurrection life He promises new hearts that gladly submit to God's rule allowing us to accomplish our original created purpose (vs. Lk 24:1–12; 1 Co 15:12–20)**

It would be hard to claim that we have eternal life to look forward to if Jesus, our perfect sacrifice, remained in the grave.

- But that wasn't the case.
  - Jesus defeated death.
  - He resurrected from the grave.

We are told in Luke 24 starting in verse 1

*"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they [he is speaking of Mary and the other women] went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened." (Lk 24:1–12)*

Jesus' resurrection wasn't unexpected.

- Jesus rose just as He had said.
  - He defeated death.
  - Which gives us hope that all those who follow Jesus will defeat death and live forever too.

**It is crucial we believe this about Jesus if we are going to call ourselves Christian.**

- If Jesus had not raised from the dead, then God's restoration project would be incomplete and we wouldn't have any hope.
- Paul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 15 when he says,

*"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we*

*testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Co 15:12–19)*

**Without the resurrection we have no hope of eternal life.**

- All we have to look forward to is death.
- But because Jesus has been raised, a point Paul makes explicit in verse 20, we have hope.
  - We have a future for which to look forward.

ILLUSTRATION: If you have been reading through the Bible with us, you have just finished the book of Ezekiel.

- Near the end of the book in Ezekiel 36 and 37 there is a remarkable promise given and a wild scene pictured.
- God knew that even those whom He called His people could not and would not faithfully follow him, so God says He will “*deliver [them] from all [their] uncleannesses*” (Ezek 36:29)
- The people will once again inhabit the land.
  - They will live according to God’s will and they will be sorry for their sins against Him.
  - In verse 31,

*“Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.” (Ezek 36:31)*

There will be true contrition and repentance on the part of the Israelites.

Then God tells us in verse 32 why He is doing this:

*“It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.” (Ezek 36:32)*

God is going to do this for His own glory, not the glory of man.

- They have done nothing but sin against Him, just as we have done nothing but sin against Him.

**Transition:** But how does this happen?

**How does a rebellious people who consistently sin against God all of a sudden become a people who follow God’s will and are sorrow for the ways in which they have sinned against God?**

It is no less than a supernatural act.

- The very next chapter — chapter 37 — is most likely given the heading in your Bible — *The Valley of Dry Bones*.



- Ezekiel is taken to a valley full of dead men whose corpses have rotted away and all that is left is their bones.
- These people represent the sinful house of Israel.

God asks Ezekiel a question in verse 3 of Ezekiel 37:

*“And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." (Ezek 37:3)*

God tells him in verse 4 to:

*“Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.” (Ezek 37:4)*

Continuing into verse 5,

*“Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezek 37:5-6)*

Ezekiel prophesies and this wild scene takes place. These dry bones become living being.

- God promises through this vision that He will raise dead men to life.
- He will ultimately place them in His promised land (Ezek 37:14).

In one sense, Ezekiel’s vision is a picture of the future resurrection.

- Though we die, we will be raised again and we will enter into God’s Promised Land.
- It is a picture of what God is capable of doing.
  - That should give us hope.

**Transition:** Not only is this a picture of our future resurrection, but it is also:

**A picture of our resurrected life now.**

- **Jesus’ resurrection works new life in us now.**
  - **Before Jesus works in our life, we are like those dead bones in the valley.**
    - **Before the Spirit breathes upon us, we are like those dead bones in the valley.**
      - But we have not remained like those dead bones in the valley.
      - We have been resurrected to new life.
        - God has done this for His glory and our joy.
- Just as Jesus experienced new life in the resurrection, we experience new life now and in the future to come.

**Transition:** And

**Baptism is a picture of this new life.**

- As Baptists, we don't believe baptism saves.
- Instead, we believe it represents or is a picture of what happens in the gospel.
- When I baptize folks, when I am dunking them in the water, I almost always say,

“Buried with Him in the likeness of His death, and raised to walk in newness of life.”

- I say that because that is what is supposed to take place in salvation.
- **In Jesus, the New Covenant promise that our hearts will be changed happens.**
- **Our will, wants, desires die in the grave and they change as we are connected to the resurrected Savior, so that God's will, wants, and desires become ours.**
- As a result, we no longer desire to be big “K” kings, but we desire to be little “k” kings who serve as God's representatives in this world for His glory.
- *It is when this happens that we are actually able to accomplish our purpose in life — to act as kingly priests who image God to the world, who serve according to His Word, and exercise dominion in accordance with God's wisdom.*

**In order for all that to happen in your life, a supernatural work must occur.**

- We don't just wake up one day and say, “I am going to step down off the throne and be a little “k” king.”
- We don't just wake up one day and say, “I am going to live a new life in Christ.”
- We don't just wake up one day and have a spirit of repentance and contrition for all the ways in which we have sinned against God.
- No, a supernatural work must take place in our life in order of these things to occur, just like a supernatural work had to take place in the valley of dry bones in order for dead men to experience new life.

**But a supernatural work can't take place without Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.**

**Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the climax of the biblical story.**

- He not only lives a perfect life, but He offers a perfect sacrifice and hope that life continues beyond the grave in a perfect relationship with the Father.

**Jesus is the perfect carpenter who completes the ultimate restoration project.**

- In Jesus, the Father fixes what Adam broke.
- In Jesus, the Father provides a perfect and final sacrifice.
- In Jesus, the Father promises hope of eternal life.
- In Jesus, the New Covenant is ushered in.

### **Jesus is the perfect carpenter who completes the ultimate restoration project.**

- Without Him we are left in a dilapidated state and our only future is that of condemnation and death.
- Thankfully Jesus has come and thankfully He will return to gather His people and finally complete His project of restoration.

## **Conclusion**

A restoration project that is open to all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

So:

- Do you believe?
  - Do you believe Jesus is your only hope? Or do you think there is another way?
  - Do you believe He has paid the penalty for your sins as your perfect sacrifice? Or do you think you can pay that penalty?
  - Do you believe and have you repented of your sins and turned to live as God would have you to live? Or do you continue to do things your own way?
- If you haven't repented and believed, don't wait any longer.
  - Jesus can provide you with the hope for which you long.
    - He can provide you with the hope you so desperately desire.
  - So if you haven't yet turned to Jesus, turn to Him today.

If you have turned to Jesus, know that He has restored you.

- He has paid the penalty for your sins, which means there is no penalty left for you to pay.
- Your obedience though necessary doesn't earn you salvation.
  - Jesus has earned it all for you.
    - That doesn't mean we shouldn't be obedient. We should.
      - Obedience is the product of a restored heart.
        - Because we have been restored, because our heart has been changed, we can and we should obey.
- When we think about what Jesus has done for us, we should want to obey out of gratitude for His work in our life.
  - We should want to worship Him.
    - We should want to gather together with other believers serving, encouraging, and building them up in the faith.

We should want these things because we have been restored by Jesus.

**And we are going to talk further about the things we should do and want as followers of Jesus next week as we continue in our series.**

- But for now, let's remember who Jesus is and what He has done for us.
- And let's let that drive us to worship, obey, and praise Him.
- Jesus truly is the perfect carpenter who has completed the ultimate restoration project.
- I pray you believe that.
- And believing that that you would celebrate Jesus' redemption by worshipping Him in praise and obedience.

Let's go to the Lord in prayer!