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The Story of Redemption

Traced throughout Scripture

Yochanan (John) 3:16

"For Elohim so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The story of redemption can be traced back into the Garden of Eden and beyond. Even before man rebelled against his Creator and sinned, YHWH had a plan to redeem him. We are not so much interested in the plan of redemption before this rebellion as we are what ensued from that point forward.

Many within Christianity have a partial picture of what the story of redemption consists; however, there are elements which have remained untouched—important elements! Therefore, some of what you will read here in this study will be quite familiar to you. Other parts will be new; and hopefully, some connections will come together to make the big picture much clearer.

There are many passages of Scripture which testify to the reality that the Creator of mankind loves His creation. This is born out in many ways; one of which is His desire to bring His wayward children back into His family. However, because of the holy nature of our Creator, He chooses to work within the parameters of His own nature. Thus, in order to be true to Himself, there are things He chooses not to do. Therefore, in order to be a part of His family, one must also elect to make those same choices; that is, each person must choose to walk within the holy characteristics of his Creator.

This is nearly impossible because of the rebellion of our original parents. However, because of the love, compassion, and mercy of our Creator, He has provided a way which makes walking within His holiness a real possibility. That is, He has made His Spirit available to each person to fill him, give him life, and guide his daily living.

Even though it was man who rebelled in the Garden of Eden, all of creation suffered as a result of that rebellion. Thus, all of creation is in need of salvation. Please consider what Shaul states in this passage.

Romans 8:21-22

21 That creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of Elohim.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.

From the rebellion in the Garden of Eden, all creation groans. However, out of all the diverse species which Elohim created, He chose one species, the human race, through which redemption would come. In part, He chose the human race because it was the human race which was responsible for all of creation being corrupted. Furthermore, the human race was given the responsibility of caring for all of creation, a task at which he has failed. In addition to this, only man was created in the image of Elohim, and it would ultimately have to be Elohim who redeemed mankind by becoming one of them. Thus, the promise was given of a Redeemer.

B'reshit (Genesis) 3:15

"and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

From this point forward, YHWH began a selection process which would continually narrow the field of potential prospects through whom He would manifest Himself in this world. YHWH's first choice in this narrowing process was Noach.

B'reshit (Genesis) 6:7-8

7 And YHWH said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the ground; both man, and beast, and creeping things, and birds of the heavens; for I am sorry that I have made them."

8 But Noach found favor in the eyes of YHWH.

Mankind had become so corrupt, mankind had even corrupted the rest of creation even more so than just by his rebellion. YHWH chose to destroy every lineage from Adam to Noach, except the line of Noach. Noach found favor in His eyes. This was the first selection to narrow and focus the story of redemption.

B'reshit (Genesis) 12:1-3

1 Now YHWH said unto Avram, "You get out of your country, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, unto the land that I will show you;

2 and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and be a blessing to you;

3 and I will bless them that bless you, and he that curses you I will curse, and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

The next selection to narrow the focus of the story of redemption was Avram, whose name YHWH later changed to Avraham. Avraham had many sons, but only one son according to the promise. This son was to come through his wife Sarah. Only this line from Avraham was selected to be the focus of redemption.

B'reshit (Genesis) 17:19

And Elohim said, "Nay, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son; and you shall call his name Yitzchaq, and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him."

The everlasting covenant spoken of by Elohim here is the covenant of redemption.

B'reshit (Genesis) 25:23

And YHWH said unto her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your bowels. And the one people shall be stronger than the other people. And the elder shall serve the younger."

Yitzchaq, through his wife Rivkah, had two sons, twins. Before these two sons of Yitzchaq were even born, YHWH selected the younger one to carry the story of redemption. It is through Ya'aqov which the blessing of redemption would come into this world. Thus it is written, "to Avraham, to Yitzchaq, and to Ya'aqov." Yet the story of redemption still needs to be focused even more than this.

B'reshit (Genesis) 49:10-12

- "The scepter shall not depart from Yehudah,Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,Until Shiloh comes:And unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be.
- 11 Binding his foal unto the vine,
 And his ass's colt unto the choice vine;
 He has washed his garments in wine,
 And his vesture in the blood of grapes:
- 12 His eyes shall be red with wine, And his teeth white with milk.

Ya'aqov had twelve sons and then adopted two of his eleventh son's sons as his own to be numbered among his own sons. However, the story of redemption could only come through one of them, his fourth son Yehudah. It would be through Yehudah which the kinsmen Redeemer would come.

Sh'muel Bet (2nd Samuel) 7:12-13

12 "When your days are fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, that shall proceed out of your bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

YHWH then selected one family of the tribe of Yehudah, David, to be the avenue through which the kinsman Redeemer is born.

At this point, this is where the story of redemption gets very interesting. It is also at this point that many people stop tracing it through Scripture. They see Yeshua as Mashiach being the son of David, and rightly so. However, to truly understand the story of redemption, one must see more of the story.

Matithyah (Matthew) 15:24

But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

He came for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, the northern kingdom. However, in order to understand who the lost sheep of the house of Israel are, one must go all the way back to Ya'aqov.

B'reshit (Genesis) 48:19

And his father refused, and said, "I know it, my son, I know it. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; however his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations."

When Ya'aqov blessed the two older sons of his son Yoseph, he placed the greater blessing upon the younger son Ephrayim. While blessing these two sons as his own, Ya'aqov prophesied that Ephrayim would become "melo hagoyim" or a "multitude of nations." This same promise was given to Avraham, although with different words. What we find is that this promise given to Avraham to become the father of many nations, was also narrowed down to the son of Yoseph, Ephrayim. In order to accomplish the promise of becoming many nations, YHWH had to do things that many do not fully understand, for His ways are not man's ways.

Melakim Aleph (1st Kings) 11:30-31

30 And Achiyah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces.
31 And he said to Yeroboam, "You take ten pieces; for thus says YHWH, the Elohim of Israel, 'Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Sh'lomo, and will give ten tribes to you."

Thus, the nation of Israel was split into two houses, the house of Israel in the north consisting of ten tribes and the house of Yehudah in the south consisting of two tribes. It is interesting to note the two tribes of the southern house consist of Yehudah and Benyamin. This goes back to a vow made by Yehudah himself towards Benyamin to their father Ya'agov.

Please note that Yeroboam was of the tribe of Ephrayim.

B'reshit (Genesis) 43:9

"I will be surety for him; of my hand shall you require him; if I do not bring him to you, and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever."

This vow by Yehudah was to forever tie these two brothers together and eventually make them into one house.

The splitting of the nation of Israel into two houses was only the beginning of making Ephrayim into a "multitude of nations."

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 3:8

"And I saw, when, for this very cause that backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorcement, yet treacherous Judah her sister feared not; but she also went and played the harlot."

YHWH had given all of Israel a covenant of marriage at Mount Sinai. However, many of them went after other gods from the very beginning. YHWH, in His great compassion, gave Israel many opportunities to repent. However, there comes a point when it becomes more compassionate to "cut off" that which offends for the sake of those who do not. Such was the case here. All those tribes which had a tendency to go after other gods, YHWH let go after other gods and gave them a bill of divorcement. Not only did He divorce the northern house of Israel, but He also scattered them throughout all the nations.

Yechezgel (Ezekiel) 12:15

"And they shall know that I am YHWH, when I shall disperse them among the nations, and scatter them through the countries."

In this scattering, YHWH would allow them to lose their own identity and actually become a part of the nations where He scattered them. Thus, they became a "multitude of nations" as prophesied through Ya'aqov to Ephrayim.

One might well wonder why YHWH would do this. Please consider this passage.

Kepha Bet (2nd Peter) 3:9

YHWH is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Since there is only one bride, Israel, in order to be a part of that bride, one must be adopted into it. Shaul talks about this in the book of Romans quoting from the prophet Hoshea.

Romans 9:26

And it shall be, that in the place where it was said unto them, "You are not My people,
There shall they be called sons of El Chay."

Therefore, those who were formerly scattered among the nations and lost their identity can be brought back into His family.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 16:14-16

14 "Therefore, behold, the days come," says YHWH, "that it shall no more be said, 'As YHWH lives, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;'

15 but, 'As YHWH lives, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the countries where He had driven them.' And I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers."

16 "Behold, I will send for many fishers," says YHWH, "and they shall fish them up; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks."

The fishermen are sent forth to find those willing to heed the call to become a part of Israel, the northern kingdom, and ultimately to be reunited with the southern kingdom. This is part of the redemption process and a key element of the redemption story.

Thus, the opening passage of Scripture which states:

Yochanan (John) 3:16

"For Elohim so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The story of redemption is about a Groom (Creator) and His bride (Israel) and how YHWH brings His bride into her fullness by including all who shall be saved from every nation, tribe, and tongue! Israel consists of those who are willing to hear and obey His Voice—that is, to obey Him!

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