

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **28 – Redeemer**

*All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Redeemer for us today.*

#### **Reading: Isaiah 43:14-25**

There are three main pictures that are represented in the Bible by the term, Redeemer.

The first is where someone is in danger or bondage, and someone else comes and sets them free. That process is called redemption.

The second is where aid is given to a relative. There is an inherent close relationship between two people from the same family or lineage. Added to which is an implicit understanding that speed is required to assist or rescue the family in difficulty.

The third relates to a ransom, where money is paid in substitution for a life. Under the law, each year, every male Israelite had to give a shekel to the temple treasury as a symbolic ransom for their lives. It referred back to the time when the Israelites were rescued from Egypt and their lives saved.

The significant issue is that something or someone is in bondage or debt, and they are unable to redeem themselves. Payment of the ransom has to be made before redemption can take place, and that redemption must come from a close relative.

There is a beautiful picture in the book of Ruth, where Boaz redeems Naomi's husband's property. Elimelech had sold his property when he and his family left to go to Moab. Naomi was unable to redeem it herself, so Boaz had to pay the price required; the most significant part was that Boaz had to be a close relative.

It appears there were two candidates. They were called the kinsman-redeemers. The first was a closer relative to Naomi, but he was unwilling to redeem the land, because, in doing so, he would also have to acquire Naomi's daughter-in-law, the widow Ruth.

Boaz, on the other hand, was able to redeem Naomi's family land; firstly, since he was a close kinsman, and secondly, because he was willing to accept Ruth as his wife. Consequently, Boaz married Ruth and so, through her, became the great-grandfather of King David. Boaz's one-time action had eternal consequences.

We find, throughout the Scriptures, a constant notion that the people of Israel are God's own people. They did not choose to be God's people; rather, God chose them to be His people. God chose Abraham. He chose Abraham to be the father of the people of God. God reaffirmed that covenant with Isaac and Jacob, whom God later named, "Israel".

God re-established the covenant with Moses. God said that He had chosen the people of Israel to be His treasured possession. His people – the people of God. There was an inherent intimacy between God and them.

However, as we research the history of the Israelites, we find that they were not as keen on their relationship with God as He was. Yes, when everything was going well, they liked belonging to God. However, when they saw what the rest of the nations were doing, they really preferred to be

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just like them. That resulted in the Israelites getting into innumerable struggles and strife, from which they panicked and cried out to God for help. Time and time again, God redeemed His people from their enemies.

When we turn to the New Testament, we find that God views us all in a similar way. God wants an intimate relationship with each of us, and yet we prefer independence and self-centredness. However, the result of those default positions invariably means we get into situations from which we are unable to extricate ourselves. It is then that God takes the initiative to come to our rescue. He becomes our Redeemer, in the person of Jesus Christ.

To be a kinsman-redeemer, God had to come in human form, as Jesus. That gave Him the authority to redeem us.

We get ourselves into bondage and slavery; we are unable to redeem ourselves, so God came in human form as our Kinsman-Redeemer, and paid the price by dying on the cross to redeem us from the consequences of our sin.

Because Christ rose from the dead and is alive forever, God's name, Kinsman-Redeemer, is an eternal Name. Jesus' sacrifice remains an eternal means of redemption.

### **What does that name mean for us today**

God has paid the price for our redemption – the forgiveness of our sin and selfishness. He longs to live in an intimate relationship with us because He is our loving Heavenly Father.

### **Prayer**

*Thank You so much, Father, for becoming my Kinsman-Redeemer through the death on the Cross of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Thank You that You always want a close relationship with me. Please help me to keep my side of the relationship intimate too. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Hosea 13:9-14
- Psalm 103:1-13
- Ruth 4

### **Questions**

1. Did you realise that your Redeemer has to be in a close relationship with you or it doesn't work? If so, how can we maintain an intimate relationship with God?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?