

REDEEM

ἐξαγοράσῳ

(to buy out or purchase a slave with a view to his freedom)

λυτροῦ

(to release on receipt of ransom)

Let's begin with the definition. To redeem means to set free by the payment of a price. It is a word that comes first from the marketplace. Second, it comes from the slave market. Third, it comes from the prison house.

The purchase price for a slave was called the redemption money.

In the ancient world men, women and children were routinely bought and sold. They were owned, traded, purchased, put to work. They could be handed down from one generation to another. You might be born into slavery or you might go into debt and legally fall into slavery. The purchase price for a slave was called the redemption money. To redeem means to see a slave, to pay the price, to take them off the market and then set them free. In redemption there is a divine exchange. One man pays the price so another man can go free.

There are three primary Greek words that are used in the New Testament for redemption. The first comes from the Greek "agora" which means the market place. In its secular sense, it means to go into the marketplace and buy something. You see something you like and purchase it. Applied to redemption, it means to go in and purchase a slave who is on the auction block. The second word means to go into the slave market, to pay the price and to take somebody off the slave market and out of that area altogether. The third word means to save, set free or deliver somebody from captivity.

Now then, the one means to purchase; the next means to purchase and remove from the slave market; and the third means having purchased and removed, you are now set free. Note, three words are used in the New Testament to describe what Jesus did on the cross. Instead of our blood, there is his.

Ephesians 1:7 says, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Titus 2:14 says, "Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness."

Galatians 3:13 says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law."

And our central text for this sermon is 1 Peter 1:18-19, which says, *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*

In the Old Testament there were four conditions that had to be met before a relative redeemer could pay the price.

1. He had to be a relative. He had to be part of the family. There had to be a blood relationship.
2. He had to be acceptable to all the parties involved.
3. He had to be able to pay the price, i.e. he couldn't himself be in debt, because if he were in debt he couldn't pay the price of redemption.
4. He had to be willing.

Even so our Lord Jesus Christ is our blood-relative. **“Though he was rich, for our sakes he became poor.”** **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”** He became one with us. The Lord of glory became our blood-relative to save us from evil – *past present and future!*

Redemption changes everything!

You can enter redemption into any timeframe you take responsibility for. Why? Because time was created for the works of redemption.