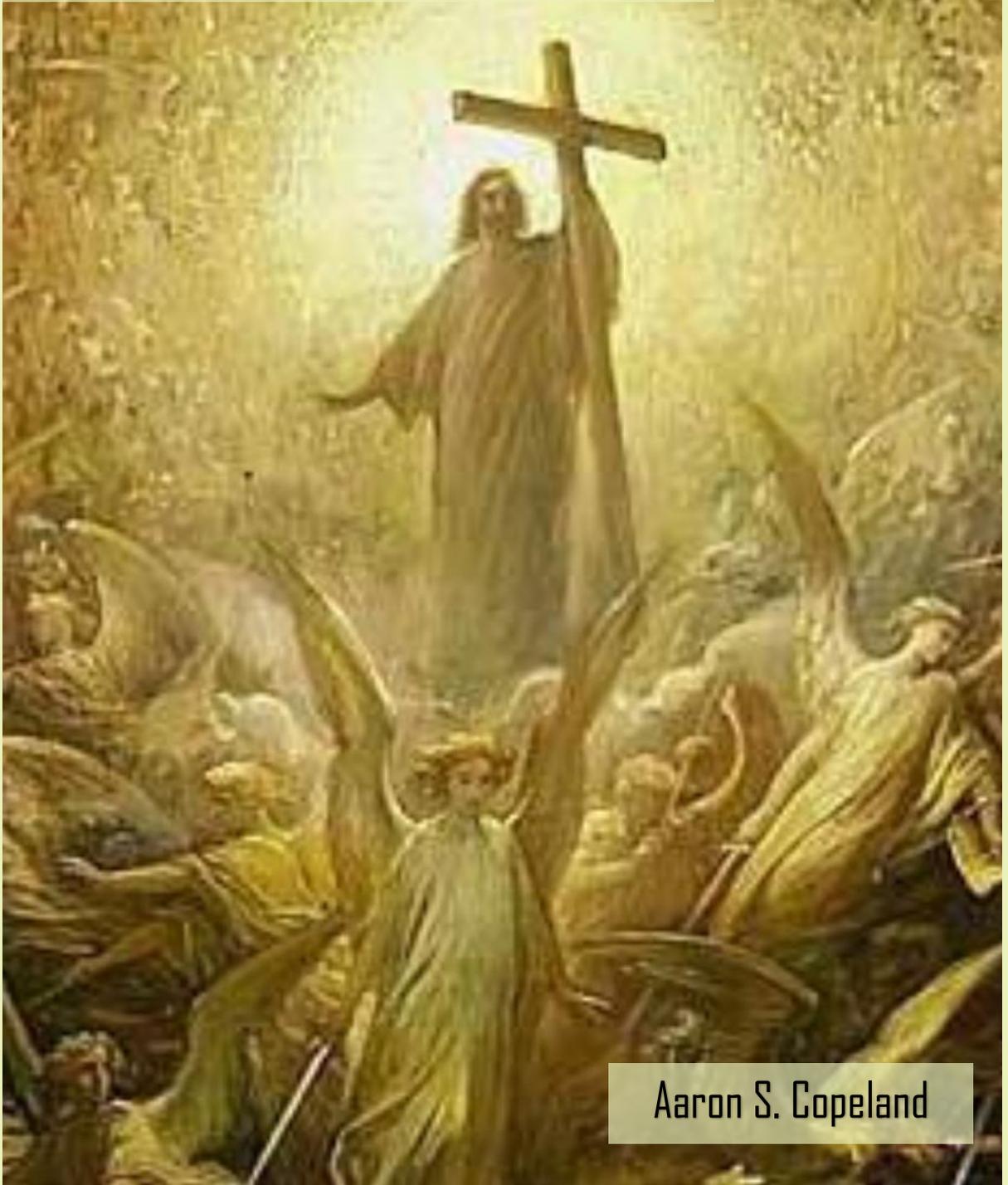


*Jesus as Our Redeemer*



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# Jesus as Our Redeemer

## The Fall and Loss of Dominion

God made man perfectly in His image and gave him dominion to rule over the earth and all that was in it in order to glorify God (Gen 1:27). Satan would later deceive Eve using God's words, and Adam would willfully follow her in full knowledge of his act (1 Tim 2:14). They bit into the forbidden fruit and tasted rebellion against God. For the first time, they knew the difference between good and evil (Gen 3:1-6). God replied by delivering His curses on the serpent, childbearing, man's work, and nature itself (Gen 3:14-19). After the fall, mankind faced physical death and the spiritual death of separation from God.

Since we are all from Adam, we are all born with his sin nature. Perfection cannot come from imperfection, nor can righteousness come from unrighteousness. Therefore, we are not sinful because we sin, we sin because we are sinful. After the fall, mankind no longer belonged to God; all belonged to Satan. Here's what Jesus had to say concerning the children of God vs. the children of Satan:

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God, hears God's words; therefore, you do not hear, because you are not of God."

~ John 8:42-47

Paul states the case similarly as follows:

But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

~ Ephesians 2:1-10

We see here and elsewhere that man no longer has dominion over the earth. Since the fall, man has been doing the bidding of Satan in living lawlessly, or against the will of God. Dominion over the kingdoms of mankind, even now, belong to Satan. In man's rebellion against God, man effectively forfeited the title deed of this world, which was entrusted to him by God, to Satan.

## Kinsman Redeemer

The world is in desperate need of a redeemer. "Redeemer," in the English language, means to "buy back". In the Old Testament (OT), the Hebrew word means to ransom, rescue, deliver, or cause the release of people or property through payment of a price.

In the cultures of both the Old Testament and in the Ancient Near East (ANE), a redeemer was usually the firstborn male who received a double portion of the inheritance from the father so he would have the resources necessary to watch over and care for the rest of the family (Deut. 21:17). It was the firstborn who made his father a father, enabling the father's power of parenthood. So, it was the firstborn who stood in his father's stead and perpetuated his memory by carrying on the family name.

In this position, the firstborn also had the responsibility of serving as the priestly link between the family and their gods. When Yahweh struck the Egyptians with the ten plagues, the purpose of each plague was to destroy the reputation of a specific Egyptian god. When Yahweh finally killed every firstborn in Egypt, He effectively severed the entire Egyptian Empire's link to their family's gods. After the exodus out of Egypt, Yahweh made sure all the firstborn of Israel, man and beast, was consecrated to him so that Israel would be His people and Yahweh would be their God (Exodus 13:1-16). This also made Israel the firstborn people of God (Jer. 31:9).

Another role of the firstborn was that of redeemer since he was required to look out after the wellbeing of the entire extended family. It was a demanding responsibility that many younger siblings were probably glad not to have. Whenever a family member was hurting, in need, in danger, or became an outcast in any way, it was the redeemer's job to use his inheritance to redeem the broken family member and bring them back to the father's house.

While there are many examples of redeemers in the OT, think about Abraham risking his life in rescuing (redeeming) his nephew Lot from a confederate army of four kings, and Hosea paying the redemption price to buy back his wife who was prostituting herself (Hos 1 and 3). Another beautiful picture of a kinsman redeemer (a redeemer whose relationship makes him the next family member in line to be able to redeem the family inheritance of land and carrying out the family lineage) is how Boaz redeemed Ruth to be his wife and also redeemed the lands of Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, back into the family name.

According to OT law, a family could lose their allotted land to someone else due to debt, but every fifty years, there would be a Year of Jubilee, beginning on the Day of Atonement. Starting on this day, Israel's economy experienced a reset. All debts to that point were cancelled and all hereditary lands were given back to their original family owners, or next of kin being a kinsman redeemer (Lev. 25:1-4, 8-10). Economies in a fallen world tend to become corrupted, and this law was to curb that corruption by restoring everything back to how it was on the very day that Israel's sin would be atoned for, *Yom Kippur*.

## Jesus as Kinsman Redeemer

By being the Firstborn of God, as the Son of God, over creation (Col. 1:15-16; Jn. 1:1-3; Psalm 2:6-7; Heb. 1:5-6), Jesus was preeminent in time and power. By being the fullness of God as the Son of Man (a title Jesus loved to call himself), Jesus, in flesh and blood became our nearest relative, who therefore had the rights to redeem us as our great Kinsman Redeemer. Satan understood this and was trying to tempt Jesus into getting back the kingdoms of mankind without fulfilling His redeeming act of paying the redemption price of ultimate suffering, death, separation, and rejection known as the Atonement. This is why we see Satan offering all of the kingdoms of the world to Jesus. Thankfully, Jesus overcame Satan's temptations with the Scriptures.

Jesus, as Firstborn and our only possible Kinsman Redeemer, would eventually pay that redemption price on the cross, and through His resurrection He became the Firstborn of the dead (Rev. 1:4), also called the Firstborn of the brethren (Rom. 8:29). The Firstborn status of Jesus shows his preeminence to David's eternal throne and his preeminence over death. The outcome is that all of Satan's slaves, the hurting, the outcasts, those damned and without hope, can repent and trust in Jesus and He will redeem them by bringing raising them from spiritual death and into the living safety and joy of the Father's house (Jn. 14:2).

After His resurrection, and just before His ascension, Jesus commissioned all those he redeemed to participate in His redemption process, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20). This is why we must put making disciples before all else in our life. It is the only reason the church exists and the only reason why each of us continue to exist still on earth.

## Jesus Will Redeem and Regain Dominion

In the meantime, however, Satan still clings to his title deed of the world. It may seem counterintuitive that Jesus is King overall, yet Satan still rules over the kingdoms of mankind, but this very picture can be seen clearly in the OT. Israel had made Saul their king. Yet the prophesied lineage for the king of Israel was to be from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-10), and Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Sam. 9:21). Through Saul's disobedience of God and his hard heart, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul; so, he was not ruling according to God's will (or laws) and was doing the bidding of Satan from that point on. Eventually, Samuel would anoint David, from the tribe of Judah, as King of Israel (1 Sam. 16), but David would not ascend the throne for another 15 years. Yet during this time, David had loyal followers by his side. Similarly, King Jesus has all the authority in Heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18), but is not yet on His throne since He now sits at the right hand of the Father (Acts 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20-21; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rev. 3:21). God the Father is on the throne in heaven, and Jesus will soon come back to earth and ascend His throne of David and rule over all mankind.

This will take place at the coming of a greater Year of Jubilee, when all possession revert back to the Kinsman Redeemer. There will be a great restoring of all that, which in the course of time, was perverted by man's sin, in the removing of all slavery of sin, in the establishing of the true liberty of the children of God, and in the delivering of the creation from the bondage of corruption to which it was subjected on account of man's depravity (Rom. 8:19-23; Isa. 61:1-3).

In a vision of future events in Heaven (Jn 5), John is weeping bitterly because no one in Heaven, or on Earth, was worthy to lay claim to the scroll, or the title deed of the Earth, for the longed-for redemption of it. According to OT law, the current owner would be able to keep the land if in the Year of Jubilee, there was no rightful heir to it—but then Jesus walks in...

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,  
And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Our King has not only redeemed us, he has written the last chapter of the story, where he finishes His redemptive work! Don't be choked out by the cares of this world (Matt. 13:22); Give the entirety of your life to the service of the King! Jesus wrote the ending, and we win!