

*The Story of Redemption
Or
Reconciliation*



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To **redeem** means to buy back or repurchase.

To reconcile means to restore to friendship.

So, This is the story of buying back and restoring to friendship.

And here is the story:

Adam fell into the sin of disobeying God as we all know. We also know about the justice of God : **"For the wages of sin is death."** (Romans 6:23)

So, Adam deserved death for his sin, and so all of us: **"Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned."** (Romans 5:12), **"For all have sinned and came short of the glory of God."** (Romans 3:23)

Some preachers like to harp on this tune all the time, and neglect to preach God's Love, Kindness, Mercy, Righteousness, Grace, and Peace because God is all that. Listen to what the Holy Scripture Says : **"Mercy and Truth are met together, Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other"** (Psalm 85:10) This was a prophesy in the Old Testament about the Messiah who is to come, bringing Peace and Happiness to the world at His birth, and reconciliation to God at His Death. Listen to what the Holy Scripture said at His birth: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."** That was the song of the Angels to the country shepherds when Jesus was born as narrated in Luke 2: 8-14. Then listen to what the Holy Scripture said after His death: **"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** (Rom. 5:8)

So, I would like to start the story from the beginning.

Adam committed the sin of disobedience against God, for which he was expelled from the presence of God, and we his descendants inherited the sinning nature after him as is obvious from the above mentioned verses.

Since God hates sin, then there was enmity between God and Adam's seed. But God removed that enmity, and reconciled us to Him, saved us and gave us life..

Listen to what the Holy Scripture says: **"For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."** (Rom.5:10)

Then from Adam till Moses, the righteous without any written law, practiced offering sacrifices to God.

The story goes on.

Time passed by, and Joseph was betrayed by his own brothers, and was sold to the Ishmaelite merchants who were passing by, who in turn sold him as a slave in Egypt. We all know the rest of his story. Time passed and a great famine happened and his brothers went to Egypt seeking to buy wheat; and later on, his father and his eleven brothers and their families settled in Egypt for 400 years and became a large nation.

Then Moses was delegated by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. And we all know about the ten plagues, the last of which was killing the firstborn son of each and every Egyptian family by the Angel of death without harming the Israelites.

And God's instructions to Moses were that each Israelite family should kill a lamb and mark their doors with the blood of the lamb, so that the Angel of death would see the blood and pass over their houses without harming them.

This is of utmost significance, because that was a shadow of what yet to come, since the blood of our Lord Jesus (the Lamb of God) was shed to save mankind as the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites. We shall talk about that later.

Then the Israelites left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

During that time God appeared again to Moses and gave him the commandments and the laws by which they should conduct themselves towards God and towards each other.

So, Moses came with the written Law of God where it was mandatory to offer sacrifices for man's sin, and it was called "***Sin Sacrifice or Sin Offering***"

This is mentioned in different books of the Old Testament such as:

Leviticus chapters 4,5,6,7,14,16,18 and 19.

Numbers chapter 6

2nd Chronicles chapter 29

Psalms chapter 40

Isaiah chapter 53

Ezekiel chapters 40, 42, 44, and 46

And according to these laws there was a certain ritual to be fulfilled for every transgression.

So, the sinner had to offer a sacrifice in the form of an ox, goat, lamb, or a pair of doves, as per the priest's order, and the priest burns certain parts of it on the altar. And this was a sign that God had accepted the offering, granted forgiveness and made peace and reconciliation.

In certain occasions, the priest had to offer also certain offerings on his behalf and on the people's behalf.

There were certain offerings for thanksgiving, peace, safety, birth, and Passover as we shall mention later.

But man couldn't keep every commandment because all had sinned, and no one was righteous, not even one.

So, the death penalty was due on every person since the wages of sin is death as mentioned before. God's justice has to be executed, and man has to die ***"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."*** (Heb.10:4). ***"And priest attends daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifice which can never take away sins."*** (Hebrews 10-11)

Now, since the blood of bulls, goats, birds, or any other animal sacrifice cannot take away sins, then it was necessary for man to substitute another, meaning that one man dies for another, so that the sin is taken away and God's justice to be fulfilled.

Now the question is: - Is ***there any man in this world, who can so love another to die for him?***

The answer is obviously **"No"**.

And if there is such a man who willfully dies for another, would that fulfill God's justice?

The answer is **"No"** again.

Why not? Because, listen to how the Holy Scripture describes man: ***"Every one has turned aside, they have together become corrupt, there is none who does good. No, not one,"*** (Psalm 53:3)

So, how can a sinner stand up for another sinner? **Or**, How can a bankrupt bail out another bankrupt? They both have nothing to offer.

So, this does **not** work with God either.

How about an angel? Can he offer some help? **No**, not him either, because first he is not human, and second though he does not sin, yet he is not immune from falling, and the best proof is Satan (the fallen angel) himself who was an angel and fell.

So, now my friend, we have come to the conclusion that no animal or bird sacrifice, nor another man, nor an angel can substitute a man or take away his sin.

Then, what is the solution, if there is any?

Yes, says the Lord. There is a perfect solution. I can send my Beloved Son. As a matter of fact, I have already arranged for that long before I created man, because I knew beforehand that he is going to sin.

But why do you do that Lord? **Because I love you so much. You are my creation, how can I forsake you? "Can a woman forget her nursing child? And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget. Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands."** (Is. 49:15,16)

The story goes on.

So, God took the appearance of man. ***"Great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifested in the flesh"*** (1Tim. 3:16). Notice also what the Holy Scripture states in Phil. 2:7 ***"But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being in the likeness of men."***

Then, He died for you and me and on behalf of all mankind ***"And being found in***

appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:8)

For what? To manifest His love for us. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16)

Does this mean that we are so good to deserve this? **“NO”**, on the contrary, listen to what the Holy Scripture says: ***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (Rom. 5:8)

Can any human being comprehend such unbelievable love?!

And so, the prophesy of Isaiah came true: ***“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him: He has put Him in grief, when You make His soul an offering for sin.”*** (Is. 53:10) Now, since we are talking about offering of sin, let us consider a very important point: According to the law, the sin offering should be offered through the priest. And the priest must be a Levite (from the tribe of Levi) the line of Aaron as the Lord commanded Moses.

Now the question is: was Jesus Christ a priest? Was He a Levite according to the order of Aaron?

Yes, He was a priest. But NO, He was not a Levite, nor was He according to the order of Aaron. How come?

If we go to Heb. 6:20, we find the answer where it says: ***“Where the forerunner, has entered for us, even Christ having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedec”.***

And in Ps.110:4 (which is a prophesy about the Messiah) we read ***“The Lord has sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec.***

And this Melchizedec was Priest of the Most High who met Abraham on his return from conquering the four kings (Gen. 14:12-20) Who was the King of Salem and was called King of righteousness and king of Peace (Heb, 7:2)

Now since we have established the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, we find in Hebrews that He entered the Holy Place (Holy of Holiness), where no body is permitted to enter, except the High Priest once a year, every year at the Day of Atonement to offer a Sacrifice on his behalf and the people.

And in Heb. 9:12, we read: ***“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once in the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”.*** And we should notice here that the Scripture says ***“for us”***, that is because Christ as a High Priest offered His sacrifice on behalf of the people only and not on His behalf because He is sinless (did not know a sin). Also we should notice that the Scripture says that He entered ***‘once’***, not every year as in the order of Aaron Priesthood, that is because Aaron’s Priesthood is human, but Christ’s Priesthood is Royal, Divine and Heavenly, plus He died once and for all.

So, after hearing this beautiful story, let us see what it means to us:

[1] No condemnation. No law of flesh.

But Grace, righteousness and reconciliation.

Let us see what the Holy Scripture says about that:

- ❖ “For the law was given by Moses, but **Grace** and **Truth** came by Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)
- ❖ “Truly, Truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, Has eternal life, he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24)
- ❖ “For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”(John 5:17)
- ❖ “He that believes on Him is not condemned. (John 5:18)
- ❖ “Woman where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said “no one lord”. And Jesus said to her “Neither do I condemn you.. Go and sin no more.” (John 8:10,11)
- ❖ “You judge after the flesh, I judge no man.” (John 8:15)
- ❖ “Being justified freely by His **Grace** through the **Redemption** that is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:24)
- ❖ “Whom God has set forth as propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance, God had **passed over** the sins that were previously committed.” (Rom. 3:25)
- ❖ “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from death through Him.” (Rom.5:9)
- ❖ “For if, when we were enemies, we were **Reconciled** to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Rom. 5:10)
- ❖ “And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **Reconciliation.**” (Rom. 5:11)
- ❖ “There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. “(Rom. 8:1)
- ❖ “For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Rom. 8:2)
- ❖ “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” (Rom. 8:3)
- ❖ “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Rom.8:4)

[2] Shall we then sin, because we are no longer under the law of flesh?

No. we are now overcome by the Grace, Slaves to the Godly Righteousness.

Let us see what the Holy Scripture says about that:

- “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? The law of works? No. by the law of faith.” (Rom. 3:27)
- “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” (Rom.3:28)

- “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Rom.5:12)
 - “For until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” (Rom. 5:13)
 - “Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgressions, who is the figure of Him that was to come.” (Rom. 5:14)
 - “But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For is through the offence of one, many be dead, much more the grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, has abounded unto many.” (Rom. 5:15)
 - “And not as if was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences into justification.” (Rom. 5:16)
 - “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one, much more they who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:17)
 - “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”(Rom. 5:18)
 - “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” (Rom. 5:19)
 - “Moreover, the law entered that the offence might abound, but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (Rom. 5:20)
 - “That as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 5:21)
- As you may have noticed, all the previously mentioned verses (Rom. 5:12-21) tell the whole story of Redemption.**
- “What shall we say then? Shall we continue on sin that grace may abound?” (Rom. 6:1)
 - “God forbid (Certainly not). How shall we who died to sin, live any longer in it?” (Rom. 6:2)
 - “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death?” (Rom.6:3)
 - “Therefore, we are buried with Him through baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom 6:4)
 - “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.” (Rom. 6:5)
 - “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” (Rom. 6:6)
 - “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Rom. 6:14)
 - “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (Rom. 6:15)

- “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16)
- “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Rom. 6:18)
- “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.” (Rom. 6:20)
- “But now having been set free from sin and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to Holiness and the end, everlasting life.” (Rom. 6:22)
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)
- “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world, but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Heb. 9:26)
- “But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, for after He had said before:” (Heb. 10:15)
- “This the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.” (Heb. 10:16)
- “Then He adds their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Heb. 10:17).

Now what?

Hear, Listen, Confess the Lord and believe in Him.

The result is eternal life.

Let us see what the Holy Scripture says about that:

- “Verily, verily, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes in Him Who sent Me, have everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)
- “Jesus said to him: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)
- “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Rom. 10:9)
- “For, with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Rom. 10:10)
- “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13)

P.S. I have intentionally put all the verses as they appear in the Holy Scripture, because they might lose their actual meaning if put in my own words.

Please read John Chapter 3. It talks about the second or new birth.

Also, please read Isaiah Chapter 53. It includes some of the prophecies about Christ our redeemer.

And now my dear friend, do you know the story of **Redemption**? Jesus purchased you and me and the entire world back to Himself. He paid dearly for that. It cost Him His blood. He paid it all in full. **We are not to pay anything at all, because God is not in the habit of collecting the price twice.**

I hope this short story of redemption or reconciliation; will be of some comfort to you. If so, then tell others about it.

May our Loving Lord Jesus Christ bless you.