

Incarnation and Redemption

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

† Learn about God's plan for us and why He came down to earth and became man.

Key verse

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Ephesians 1:4)

What is the Covenant of Redemption?

It's an eternal agreement between the Father and the Son.

The agreement is because man has fallen in sin, now when man fell in sin, God was ready for him. It's not as if God didn't know and when man fell in sin God said what are we going to do about it?

Before we were created, God knew we were going to fall in sin. The answer of the question why He created us while He knew we were going to Sin is Love. The Father had a plan and an agreement between Him and the Son and the Holy Spirit worked in the agreement as well that man will be saved. That's why we are speaking about the Trinity first, so you know that they are speaking to each other as a hypostasis, equal to each other.

The four principles of sin (Genesis 3:1-6)

3:1 now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? - This is a lie because God never said that

1. *3:4 then the serpent said to the woman, **you will not surely die.***
2. *3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God,***
3. *3:5 **Knowing good and evil.** – You will be like God determining your own good and evil*
4. *3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. – The woman and man were lead by their own sensual desires to believe their own feelings rather than God's instructions, it's like the phrase nowadays "if it feels good, do it".*

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1. Not believing in God, not believing in His word, rejecting death as a punishment of sin.
2. The desire to be like God.
3. The desire to be your own master, to be the master of your own destiny, not making God your own master.
4. That you can be deluded by another spirit other than God's Spirit.

So it's much more than someone eating from a tree, these four points of sin that had to be rectified.

The Agreement

The Father and the Son decided to save man, how? By the incarnation of the Son taking on a body but while He's taking on the body His name will be Jesus Christ and His title is the **second Adam**. When He walks on this earth and when He works for our Salvation, all of the work is under the Father because the rebellion of man was against the Father.

So the Son had to take the place of man, the place of a slave and whatever the Father says goes. He has His own will being a divine Hypostasis, but He always says "I came to do the will of the Father, let it be according to Your will and not mine". When the time came when the devil tempted Jesus to be like God, the same as when Adam was tempted to be like God, He refused.

<u>Adam tempted</u>	<u>Jesus tempted</u>
<i>If you eat of this tree, you will be like God</i>	<i>If your turn this stone into bread, you will be a Son of God</i>

He has come to say that man is man and God is God, man cannot be elevated to be God. I have come down to be obedient, when the serpent tempted Eve, she could've said 'let me ask God first' and Adam could've done the same. But they didn't, they didn't speak with God, what is that called? Prayer

Before Jesus raised Lazarus, He prayed. Before He changed the five loaves and two fish into thousands, He prayed. So while He didn't need to pray, He had to pray to fill the gap that was left by Adam. When it came time for Him to be tempted – for man to be God, He refused. I'm not going to turn the stone into bread because the price of that is not for me to fill my stomach; the price is you will be like God - the Son of God, so He rejected that.

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When man decided to determine his own good and bad, Christ the incarnated decided that the second Adam will not do anything of His own will but He will do the will of the Father. Christ showed the true meaning of honesty when he suffered for us, He never used His powers to take away the pain when He took on our full punishment. He showed the full love that He wanted to show. He never let his divinity interfere with His humanity, so when He was on the cross, the Father was pleased with Him. He carried the sins of the world while He was innocent. He is doing the Father's will while He doesn't deserve what happened to Him.

The centurion noticed something very strange; every man who is crucified always dies then drops his head, but Christ dropped His head first then He said "Father take my Spirit". The centurion said this is very strange. Jesus wasn't forced to die but He died on His own will. He handed His spirit to the Father because there was a promise from the Father that when that spirit goes to Hades, it will come back. He also handed His body to the Father because the Father promised that this body will never be corrupt.

The Father resurrected Christ to show He accepted Christ's offering.

QUESTION: Why was there no other way for Salvation except through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ???

ANSWER:

- Adam represents all of mankind because he is the father of everyone.
 - Adam sinned because he had freedom.
 - We were given freedom, because we are made in the image of God, and God is free.
 - God is full of mercy and is always just and fair.
 - God does not need anyone to worship Him, but he created us out of His love.
- When Adam disobeyed the commandment of God, and sinned, 2 things could have happened:
1. God could forgive Adam, or
 2. God could let Adam die.

1. Why God could not forgive Adam:

- It would be against the justness and fairness of God. Adam sinned, and would have received no punishment for his sin.
- God can't tell a lie, or be a liar. He said "If you eat of the tree, you shall surely die" and Adam wouldn't die in the case of forgiveness.
- God is Holy. It is not possible for God to accept sin, because sin goes against the Holiness of God.
- Death entered the human as a 'result' of sin, not, as a 'punishment' from God.

For example: If you told a child, not to go near the electricity socket in the wall or play with it, otherwise "you shall surely die". And as soon as you walked out of the

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room he put his finger in the electricity socket, and got electrocuted and died. Then, he died as a **result** of not listening, NOT, because you punished him.

2. Why God couldn't let Adam die without Salvation:

- God loves Adam, and created him out of His love, and in His own image.
- If Adam died forever, that means that God failed in saving His creation, and Satan (the devil) won against God, and that is impossible.
- It is against the mercy of God.

SO,

From the 1st point, we conclude that Adam should die.

From the 2nd point, we conclude that Adam should live.

The solution then is in **REDEMPTION!** - That another person should die in Adam's place to save him.

For example: (This is a true story)

There was a king, who ruled a kingdom, and many people were stealing and he wanted to get rid of this crime from his kingdom. He then issued a command, that anyone caught stealing, would receive a punishment of 100 lashes!

After a while, his men caught an old lady stealing, and the king told them to give her 100 lashes according to the command he gave. When they brought the woman to him, He saw that this old woman was in fact **his mother**. He loves his mother, but also he made a command that he cannot go back on, and that can have no exceptions, otherwise his commands would be worthless, and he would be a liar.

He then gave the command to issue the 100 lashes, BUT, he said that **HE would take the lashings instead of his mother because he loved her**. Through this, he still kept the command he issued, and he also saved his mother from the 100 lashes because he loved her.

This is exactly what God did for us. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take punishment for our sins, on our behalf, and still kept His command.

The REDEEMER:

- a) *Should be a Human* – Because human is the one who sinned, so, the punishment is on human.
- b) *Should die* – To redeem Adam, and take Adam's punishment on his behalf.
- c) *Should be without sin* – Because if he has sin, he cannot redeem another person.
- d) *Should be creator* – Because when Adam sinned, he lost the image of God, because God is completely holy, so, his nature changed. SO the redeemer must be creator to restore the image of Adam to Holiness again.

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- e) *Should be infinite* – because sin is directed at God, who is infinite, so, the redeemer must be infinite, to carry the infinity of sin.
In case of war, and each side hold hostages, one had 44, and the other one had 45. If they were to exchange the prisoners, they would not exchange 44 for 45, but, 44 for 44. Each one has the same value of the other, not more or less. Christ's life is worth all of the lives that have lived on earth, and will live on earth.

f) *SHOULD BE GOD* →

Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: Why do we inherit Adam's sin?

1. (Gen 2:16-17) → (Gen 3:1-4).
The commandment was given to Adam before the creation of Eve. But, the commandment was then transferred to Eve, because she came from Adam, and they are one creation. So the sin was transferred to all of us because we all came from Adam and Eve, and are one creation, as God is one.
2. **For example:** If you had a magnetic bar and you divided it into 100 pieces.... You would then have 100 magnetic pieces. But, if you made the magnet lose its magnetism somehow, it then becomes a normal piece of metal, and when you divide that into 100 pieces, you would then have 100 normal pieces of metal.

The problem is that Adam's nature was changed completely. He lost the image of God because of sin, and we inherited the damaged nature. But through our Lord Jesus Christ, we were created again in the image of God on the cross, when He carried our sins, and died instead of us.

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.