

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Introduction - Part 2 - Lesson 2

“The work of redemption is a work that God carries on from the fall of man to the end of the world”

Terms (continued)-“Carried on from the fall of man to the end of the world”-Edwards gives three points to help us understand what he means and doesn't mean by the above part of his statement of doctrine.

1. **This statement does not mean that God was doing _____ in terms of the redemption of man before the fall happened.**

-The _____ of _____ took place before the fall-*“Some things were done before the world was created, yea from eternity. The persons of the Trinity were, as it were, confederated in a design, and a covenant of redemption. In this covenant the Father had appointed the Son, and the Son had undertaken the work; and all things to be accomplished in the work were stipulated and agreed.”*

-The _____ of the _____ was ultimately for the redemption of sinners-*“There were things done at the creation of the world, in order to that work; for the world itself seems to have been created in order to it. The work of creation was in order to God's works of providence. So that if it be inquired, which was greatest, the works of creation or the works of providence? I answer, the works of providence; because those of providence are the end of His work of creation; as the building of a house, or the forming of a machine, is for its use. But God's main work of providence is this or redemption, as will more fully appear hereafter.”*

-The creation of _____ and of _____ took place before the fall and were for the redemption of sinners-*“The creation of heaven was in order to the work of redemption; as a habitation for the redeemed (Matt. 25:34). Even the angels were created to be employed in this work. And therefore the apostle calls them, ‘ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.’” And this lower world, it was doubtless created to be a stage upon which this great and wonderful work of redemption should be transacted...So that when it is said, that the work of redemption is carried on from the fall of man to the end of the world, it is not meant, that all that ever was done in order to redemption has been done since the fall.”*

2. **This statement does not mean that the _____ of redemption will cease after the present world ends.**

-The fruits of redemption will be enjoyed by the saints _____ -*“That glory and blessedness that will be sum of all the fruits, will remain to the saints forever. The work of redemption is not a work always doing and never accomplished. The fruits of it are eternal, but the work has an issue.”*

3. **This statement clarifies that the _____ work of redemption is that which is being carried on from the fall to the end of the world.**

-All the elements of the work are part of this _____ great plan-*“The work itself was begun immediately upon the fall, and will continue to the end of the world. The various dispensations of God during this space, belong to the same work, and to the same design, and have all one issue; and therefore*

are all to be reckoned but as several successive motions of one machine, to bring about in the conclusion one great event.”

We must also clarify between the “_____” and the “_____” of that work. The effects of that work remain constant but the work progresses.

-The _____- *“With respect to the effect wrought on the souls of the redeemed; which is common to all ages. This effect is the application of redemption with respect to the souls of particular persons, in converting, justifying, sanctifying, and glorifying them.”*

-The _____- *“The work of redemption with respect to the grand design in general, as it respects the universal subject and end is carried on-not merely by repeating or renewing the same effect in the different subjects of it, but-by many successive works and dispensations of God, all tending to one great effect, united in several parts of a scheme, and all together making up on great work.”*

We must also try to discover the _____ or what this great work of redemption is meant to accomplish:

- 1. To declare and show forth the _____ of God-** *“It is to put all God’s enemies under His feet, and that His goodness may finally appear triumphant over all evil...Now one great design of God, in the affair of redemption, was to subdue those enemies... Things were originally so planned, that He might disappoint, confound, and triumph over Satan; and that he might be bruised under Christ’s feet...It was a part of His design, to triumph over sin, and over the corruptions of men, and to root them out of the hearts of His people, by conforming them to Himself. He designed also, that His grace should triumph over man’s guilt, and sin’s infinite demerit. Again, it was a part of His design to triumph over death; and however this is the last enemy that shall be destroyed, yet that shall finally be vanquished and destroyed. Thus God appears glorious above all evil, and triumphant over all His enemies by the work of redemption.”*
- 2. To _____ all things-** *“God’s design was perfectly to restore all the ruins of the fall, so far as concerns the elect part of the world, by His Son; and therefore we read of the restitution of all things (Acts 3:21).”*
- 3. To bring all things _____ in Christ-** *“Another great design of God in the work of redemption, was to gather together in one all things in Christ, in heaven and in earth.”*
- 4. To bring many _____ to _____-** *“God designed by this work to perfect and complete the glory of all the elect by Christ...He intended to bring them to perfect excellency and beauty in His holy image, which is the proper beauty of spiritual beings; and to advance them to a glorious degree of honor, and raise them to an ineffable height of pleasure and joy.”*
- 5. To bring _____ to Himself-** *“In all this God designed to accomplish the glory of the blessed Trinity in an eminent degree. God had a design of glorifying Himself from all eternity; yea to glorify each person in the Godhead.”*