

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 5 - Period 1 - Part 2 (From the Flood to the calling of Abraham)

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

Edwards now turns his attention to chapters 6-11 of Genesis and shows that the work of redemption was _____ to advance. He starts by looking at the account of the flood.

“For though that mighty, universal deluge overthrew the world: yet it did not overthrow this building of God, the work of redemption. This went on; and instead of being overthrown, continued to be built up, in order to a further preparation for the great Savior’s coming into the world for the redemption of His people.”

Edwards notices 7 key points as evidence for the continuation of God’s work of redemption.

1. **The _____ itself-** *“The flood itself was a work of God that belonged to this great affair, and tended to promote it. All the mighty works of God from the fall of man to the end of the world are reducible to this work...”*

“Satan seems to have been in a dreadful rage just before the flood, and his rage then doubtless was, as it always has been, chiefly against the church of God to overthrow it; and he had filled the earth with violence and rage against it...their enmity and violence were so great, and the enemies of the church so numerous, the whole world being against it, that it was come to the last extremity...There was no prospect of anything else but of their totally swallowing up the church, and that in a very little time; and so destroying that small root that had the blessing in it, whence the Redeemer was to proceed. And therefore, God’s destroying those enemies of the church by the flood belongs to the affair of redemption...”

“By means of this flood, all the enemies of God’s church against whom that little handful had no strength, were swept off at once. God took their part, appeared for them against their enemies, and drowned those of whom they had been afraid, in the flood of water, as He drowned the enemies of Israel that pursued them in the Red Sea.”

“By the deluge the enemies of God’s people were dispossessed of the earth, and the whole earth was given to Noah and His family to possess it in quiet; as God made room for the Israelites in Canaan, by casting out their enemies from before them. And God thus taking the possession of the enemies of the church, and giving it all to His church...”

2. **The preservation of the _____ line from which Christ would come-** *“Another thing belonging to the same work, was God’s wonderfully preserving that family of which the Redeemer was to proceed, when all the rest of the world was drowned...The saving of Noah and his family belonged to it two ways, viz. as from that family the Redeemer was to proceed, and it was the mystical body of Christ that was there saved.”*

“The water which washed away the filth of the world, that cleared the world of wicked men, was a type of the blood of Christ, that takes away the sin of the world. The water which delivered Noah and his sons from their enemies, is a type of the blood that delivers God’s church from their sins, their worst enemies. That water which was so plentiful and abundant, that it filled the whole world, and reached above the tops of the highest mountains, was a type of that blood, which is sufficient for the whole world; sufficient to bury the highest mountains of sin.”

3. **The covenant of grace that was pictured in God’s _____ of the sacrifice-** *“We have an account of God accepting this sacrifice: and thereupon He blessed Noah, and established His covenant with him, and with his seed, promising to destroy the earth in like manner no more; signifying that it is by the sacrifice of Christ, God’s favor is obtained, and His people are in safety from the destroying judgements, and obtain the blessing of the Lord.”*
4. **God’s _____ with Noah-** *“Even the brute creation have this benefit, that it shall never be destroyed again until the consummation of all things.”*
5. **God’s _____ the plans of those in Babel to build their tower-** *“This city and tower was set up in opposition to the city of God, as the god to whom they built it, was their pride...Therefore God saw that it tended to frustrate the design of that great building which was founded in Christ’s humiliation: and therefore the thing displeased the Lord, and He baffled and confounded their designs, that are set up in opposition to the great work of redemption.”*

“Christ’s kingdom is established, by bringing down every high thing to make way for it...what it done in a particular soul, to make way for the setting up of Christ’s kingdom, is to destroy the Babel in that soul.”

“This Babel is the same with the city of Babylon...But Babylon is always spoken of in Scripture as chiefly opposite to the city of God, as a powerful and terrible enemy...But it probably would have been vastly more powerful, and able to vex if not to destroy the church of God, if it had not been thus checked. Thus it was in kindness to His church, and in prosecution of the great design of redemption, that God put a stop to the building of the city and tower of Babel.”

6. **Dispersing the _____ -** *“This was done so as most to suit the great design of redemption. And particularly, God therein had an eye on the future propagation of the gospel among the nations.”*
7. **God _____ true religion, again, in the midst of world-wide apostacy-** *“The earth was become very corrupt at the time of the building of Babel; even God’s people themselves, that line of which Christ was to come (Joshua 24:2)...We are not to understand, that they were wholly drawn off to idolatry, to forsake the true God (Gen. 31:53)...But they partook in some measure of the general and almost universal corruption of the times...”*

“This was the second time that the church was almost brought to nothing by the corruption and general defection of the world from true religion. But still the true religion was kept up in the family from which Christ was to proceed. Which is another instance of God’s remarkably preserving His church in a time of a general deluge of wickedness; and wherein, although the god of this world raged, and had almost swallowed up God’s church, yet He did not suffer the gates of hell to prevail against it.”