

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 8 - Period 1 - Part 4 (From Moses to David)

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

Continuing to look at the progression of God’s work of redemption from the time of Moses to David, Edwards now examines certain _____ of Christ that were given at this time. Edwards points our attention to three specific prophecies.

1. **The first is which came from God through _____** (Numbers 24:17-19). *“This is a plainer prophecy of Christ especially with regard to His kingly office, than any former one.”*
2. **The second is that which came from God through _____** (Deuteronomy 18:18). *“This is a plainer prophecy of Christ than any before. All the preceding prophecies were in figurative, mystical language...But this is a plain prophecy, without being veiled at all in any mystical language.”*

“There are several things contained in this prophecy of Christ, here is His mediatorial office in general, verse 16. Here it is revealed how He should be a person to stand between them and God, a being of such awful majesty, holiness, and justice, that they could not have come to Him, and have intercourse with Him immediately, without a mediator to stand between them; because, if they came to such a sin-revenging God immediately, they should die; God would prove a consuming fire to them.”

“And further, it is revealed what kind of prophet He should be; a prophet like unto Moses, who was the head and leader of all the people, and who, under God, had been their redeemer, to bring them out of the house of bondage. He was their shepherd, by whom God led them through the Red Sea and the wilderness, was an intercessor for them with God; and was both a prophet and a king to the congregation; for Moses had the power of a king among them...Thus Christ was to be a prophet like unto Moses; so that this is both the plainest and fullest prophecy of Christ that ever had been from the beginning of the world to this time.”

3. **The third also came from God through _____** (Deuteronomy 32:21). *“The next prophecy respects the calling of the Gentiles, which should be after Christ’s coming...Thus you see how the light of the gospel, which first began to dawn and glimmer immediately after the fall, gradually increases the nearer we come to Christ’s time.”*

In this era of time, we still see even more progression in God’s work of redemption. Edwards points out the *“remarkable pouring out of His Spirit on the young generation in the wilderness.”* The younger generation that came out of Egypt did not respond to the Lord as the generation of their parents. The younger generation _____ of their sin and walked by _____. The only explanation for this “change” in them from that of their parents is the work of the Spirit in them.

“They were awakened by those awful judgments of God inflicted on their fathers, whereby their carcasses fell in the wilderness. God poured out His Spirit with those awakening providences, and their own travels in the wilderness, and the word preached to them by Moses; whereby they were humbled, and at length multitudes of them were savingly converted.”

“And it is God’s manner, when he hath very great mercies to bestow on a visible people, first, to fit them for such mercies, and then to confer them. So it was here: they believed in God, and by faith overcame Sihon and Og, and the giants of Canaan; and are commended for cleaving to the Lord...There was never any generation of Israel of which so much good and so little evil is mentioned.”

The nation of Israel being led into and taking possession of the Promised Land was also a great advance in the work of redemption. This was a type of the future _____ and inheritance of the people of God.

“God wonderfully gave His people possession of this land, conquering its former inhabitants, and the mighty giants, as Christ conquered the devil...causing the walls of Jericho to fall down at the sound of the trumpets of the priests. That sound typified the sound of the gospel by the preaching of gospel ministers, the walls of the accursed city Jericho, signifying the walls of Satan’s kingdom...Thus God gave the people whence Christ was to proceed, the land where He was to be born; where He was to live, preach, and work miracles; to die, and rise again; and whence He was to ascend into heaven, as the land which was a great type of heaven.”

The setting up of the _____ was also a great advance in this work. A focused place of worship and all the types that it contained made the giving of the tabernacle a big progression in this great work.

God’s preservation can be seen in two ways: 1. In the preservation of the nation from their _____ (especially during the times of festivals) & 2. The preservation of _____ when it looked like idolatry was going to take over the entire nation.

“God never suffered His true worship to be totally rooted out: His tabernacle stood, the ark was preserved, the book of the law was kept from being destroyed, God’s priesthood was upheld, and He still had a church among the people. Time after time, when religion seemed to be almost gone, then God granted a revival, and sent some angel, or raised up some eminent person, to be an instrument of their reformation.”

All of the _____ were types of Christ, they pointed the people forward to a true Savior who would come and rescue his people from their true enemies (those of sin, death, and Satan).

“But yet God, in all these dangers, preserved them, and kept them from being wholly overthrown. From time to time, when it was come to extremity, and God saw that they were upon the very brink of ruin, then He raised up a deliverer....These deliverers were all types of Christ, the great redeemer and deliverer of His church.”

The Lord, during this period, would appear in the form of a _____. This was a foreshadowing of the coming incarnation. Some examples of this would be Exodus 24:9-11, Exodus 34, Joshua 5:13-14, Judges 6:11 & 13:17-21.

“Thus Christ appeared, time after time, in the form of that nature He was afterwards to assume; because He now appeared on the same design and to carry on the same work.”

The establishing of a _____ of _____ to continue on the prophetic office up to the time of Malachi was also a progression in God’s great work of redemption.

“There had been before occasional prophecies of Christ, as was shown; but now the time drawing nearer when the Redeemer should come, it pleased God to appoint a certain order of men, in constant succession, whose main business it should be, to point out Christ and His redemption, and as His forerunners to prepare the way for His coming.”