

## A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

### Lesson 18 - Period 3 – Introduction - Sections 2-4

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

**Section 2**-Edwards now looks at how the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ were necessary to complete the success of the purchase of redemption. Edwards first focuses on the resurrection of Christ.

*“It was necessary in order to Christ’s obtaining the end and effect of His purchase of redemption, that He should rise from the dead. For God the Father had committed the whole affair of redemption to His Son, that He should not only purchase it as priest, but actually bring it about as king; and that He should do this as God-man...In order that Christ might accomplish the success of His own purchase as God-man, it was necessary that He should rise from the dead.”*

*“For though Christ did not properly purchase redemption for Himself, yet He purchased eternal life, and glory for Himself, as a reward for what He did and suffered...For when Christ rose from the dead, that was the beginning of eternal life in Him. His life before His death was a mortal life, a temporal life; but after His resurrection it was an eternal life.”*

*“The resurrection of Christ is the most joyful event that ever came to pass; because hereby Christ rested from the great and difficult work of purchasing redemption, and received God’s testimony, that it was finished. The death of Christ was the greatest and most wonderful event that ever came to pass but that has a great deal in it that is sorrowful. But by the resurrection of Christ, that sorrow is turned into joy.”*

Until Christ rose from the dead the Old Testament era continued. However, the resurrection of Christ ended that era and brought into glorious beginning the era of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ into glory is also a necessary element completing the success of Christ purchase.

*“Christ’s ascension was nothing else but ascending to God’s right hand in glory. A deliverer of a people as their king, in order that He may be under the best capacity for it, is first installed in His throne...Christ’s ascension into heaven was, as it were, His solemn coronation, when the Father set Him upon the throne, and invested Him with the glory of that kingdom which He had purchased for Himself, that He might thereby obtain the success of His redemption in conquering all His enemies.”*

*“Christ entered into heaven, in order to obtain the success of His purchase, as the high priest of old, after He had offered sacrifice, entered into the holy of holies with the blood of the sacrifice, in order to obtain the success of the sacrifice which He had offered.”*

**Section 3**-In this section Edwards discusses the \_\_\_\_\_ that God has providentially ordained for the success of this redemption by Christ. Edwards sees 9 “means” that God ordained for bringing about the actual success of Christ’s purchase.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **the OT era**- *“When therefore God had a design of enlarging His church, as He did after Christ’s resurrection, it was necessary that this dispensation should be abolished.”*
2. **Appointing \_\_\_\_\_, the day of the resurrection, as the Christian day of worship and rest**-*And afterwards (after the resurrection), His appearing was from time to time on that day rather than any other (John 20:19, 26). This appointment was confirmed by His sending down the Holy Spirit so remarkably on that day (Acts 2:1)...And afterwards by directing, that the public worship of Christians should be on that day (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16:1-2, Rev. 1:10).”*

3. **The sending forth of the \_\_\_\_\_ to preach, rule, and to establish ministers in the Church-** *“The Apostles had something above what belonged to their ordinary character as ministers; they had an extraordinary power of teaching and ruling, which extended to all the church...And so the apostles were, in subordination to Christ, made foundations of the Christian church.”*
4. **The doing of \_\_\_\_\_ and the giving of miraculous gifts-** *“For Christianity being established through so great a part of the known world by miracles, it was after that more easily continued by tradition; and by means of these extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost, the apostles and others were enabled to write the New Testament, to be an infallible and perpetual rule of faith and manners to the church.”*
5. **The revelation of the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ of that which was written in the Old Testament-** *“This clear revelation of the mysteries of the gospel, as they are delivered, we have chiefly through the hands of the apostle Paul, by whose writings a child may come to know more of the doctrines of the gospel, in many respects, than the greatest prophets knew under the darkness of the Old Testament.”*
6. **The appointment of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ -** *“The appointment of deacons...to take care for the outward supply of the members of Christ’s church, and the exercise of that great Christian virtue charity.”*
7. **The \_\_\_\_\_ and sending out of \_\_\_\_\_ -** *“Thus was begun in his conversion as he was going to Damascus, and was one of the greatest means of the success of Christ’s redemption that followed...He was more employed by the Holy Ghost in revealing the glorious doctrines of the gospel by his writings, for the use of the church in all ages, than all the other apostles taken together.”*
8. **The establishment of ecclesiastical \_\_\_\_\_ -** *“The next thing I would observe, is the institution of ecclesiastical councils, for deciding controversies, and ordering the affairs of the church of Christ.”*
9. **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament-** *“So that now the canon of Scripture, that great and standing written rule, which was begun about Moses’s time, is completed and settled, and a curse denounced against him that adds anything to it, or diminishes anything from it.”*

*“And so all the stated means of grace were finished in the apostolical age, or before the death of the apostle John, and are to remain unaltered to the day of judgment.”*

**Section 4-**Edwards’ understanding is that from the time of the resurrection of Christ to the fall of Antichrist the church will be in the midst of a period of \_\_\_\_\_. Affliction, opposition, and persecution during this period are not to be considered as a strange thing but the ordinary experience of the church.

*“During this space of time, some part or other of the church is under persecution; and great part of the time, the whole church, or at least the generality of God’s people, have been persecuted.”*

Edwards sees much of the affliction, opposition, and persecution of the church during this period as emanating from the city of \_\_\_\_\_, which is identified by the apostle Peter as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13). His viewing of things this way makes sense when we consider the historical time of Edwards.

*“Rome therefore in the New Testament is called Babylon; because, as of old the troubles of the city of Jerusalem were mainly from that adverse city Babylon, so the troubles of the Christian church, the spiritual Jerusalem, during the long time of its tribulation, are mainly from Rome. Before the time of Constantine, the troubles of the Christian church were from the heathen Rome: since that time, its troubles have been mainly from antichristian Rome. And as of old, the captivity of the Jews ceased on the destruction of Babylon, so the time of the trouble of the Christian church will cease with the destruction of the church of Rome, that spiritual Babylon.”*