

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 19 - Period 3 - Part 1-Christ's Resurrection to the Fall of Jerusalem

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

The first of 4 major divisions Edwards has for this period spans the time between the resurrection of Christ until the fall of Jerusalem (70AD). The later days begin, of course, with the times of the apostles. Most of the New Testament was written during this period and most of the apostles died within this first period. Edwards is going to highlight 3 elements of this period: the _____ of the gospel advance, the _____ that the gospel advance faced, and the _____ that God brought upon those who opposed the advance of the gospel.

1. **The _____ of the gospel _____** - *“Soon after Christ had entered into the holy of holies with His own blood, there began a glorious success of what He had done and suffered. Having undermined the foundation of Satan's kingdom, it began to fall apace.”*

“He (Satan) had, we may suppose, been very lately triumphing in a supposed victory, having brought about the death of Christ, which he doubtless gloried in as the greatest feat that ever he did; and probably imagined he had totally defeated God's design by Him. But he was quickly made sensible, that he had only been ruining his own kingdom, when he saw it tumbling so fast so soon after, as a consequence of the death of Christ.”

First, the gospel successfully advanced among the _____ - *“For God first began with them...The Christian church was first formed from the nation of Israel...The Christian church began at Jerusalem, and from thence was propagated to all nations; so that this church of Jerusalem was the mother of all other churches in the world.”*

Next, the gospel successfully advanced among the _____ - *“The Spirit of God was next wonderfully poured out on the Samaritans...We do not find them reckoned as Gentiles in the New Testament: for the calling of the Gentiles is spoken of as a new thing after this, beginning with the conversion of Cornelius.”*

Finally, the gospel successfully advanced among the _____ - *“Thus the gospel sun-which had lately risen on the Jews, now rose upon, and began to enlighten, the heathen world, after they had continued in gross heathenish darkness for so many ages...In almost all countries throughout the known world, there were Christian assemblies, and joyful praises were sung to the true God, and Jesus Christ the glorious Redeemer.”*

2. **As the gospel advanced, _____** - *“Satan, who lately was so ready to triumph and exult, as though he had gained the victory in putting Christ to death, now finding himself fallen into the pit which he had digged, and finding his kingdom falling so fast, and seeing Christ's kingdom make such amazing progress, was filled with the greatest confusion and astonishment: and hell seemed to be effectually alarmed to make the most violent opposition against it.”*

During this time the _____ to the gospel came mostly from the _____ - *“It is observable, that the persecution which the church suffered during this period, was mostly from the Jews...So in other countries we find, that almost wherever the apostles came, the Jews opposed the gospel in a most malignant manner, contradicting and blaspheming. How many things did the blessed apostle Paul suffer at their hands!”*

3. **God brought _____ upon those that opposed the advance of the gospel**-The judgment of God upon most of the Jewish people can be seen as a threefold judgment.

The first element of God's judgment was that the majority of nation of Israel was and continue to be left _____ and in a state of _____ of heart

"The bulk of the people were given up to judicial blindness of mind and hardness of heart...That they should continue from generation to generation so obstinately to reject Christ, so that it is a very rare thing that any of them is converted to the Christian faith-though their own Scriptures of the Old Testament, which they acknowledge, are so full of plain testimonies against them-is a remarkable evidence of their being dreadfully left of God."

The second element of God's judgment was the removal of the nation of Israel, as a whole, as the _____ of God on the earth

"They were rejected from being any longer God's visible people. They were broken off from the stock of Abraham, and since that have no more been reputed his seed, than the Ishmaelites or Edomites, who are so much his natural seed as they."

"They were visibly rejected by God's directing His apostles to turn away from them, and let them alone."

The third element of God's judgment was the _____ of the city of _____

"The third and last judgment of God on those enemies of the success of the gospel which I shall mention is the terrible destruction of their city and country by the Romans."

The Lord did _____ the people of Israel through the mouths of John the Baptist, Jesus our Lord, and the apostles that if they persisted in unbelief the wrath of God would come upon them. We must remember that God always warns first, but man's heart is so hard, that unless he is born again by the _____ of _____, he will never believe God's word.

"The first destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians was very terrible, as it is in a most affecting manner described by the prophet Jeremiah, in his Lamentations; but that was nothing to the dreadful misery and wrath which they suffered in this destruction."

"Thus there was a final end put to the Old Testament world: all was finished in a kind of day of judgment, in which the people of God were saved, and His enemies terribly destroyed. Thus does He who was so lately mocked, despised, and spit upon by these Jews, and whose followers they so malignantly persecuted, appear gloriously exalted over His enemies."